Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

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Krylov: NATO Expansion Into Baltic 'Negative Process'

BR1509105395 Copenhagen POLITIKEN in Danish 14 Sep 95 p 10

[Interview with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Krylov by Hans Jorgen Poulsen in Ronne; no date given: "Risk of a Korea in Europe" — first paragraph is POLITIKEN introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ronne — Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Krylov took part in the Baltic-Nordic conference of parliamentarians on Bornholm which ended yesterday [13 September]. The deputy foreign minister was confronted here with Germany's efforts for the admission of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania to NATO.

[Poulsen] What risks does Russia see in this?

[Krylov] Our point of view is that enlarging NATO to include the Baltic countries in line with NATO's invitation is a negative process right now, when you take the entire European situation into consideration. If one of the countries becomes a member and another does not, a new Korea will be created on our continent.

[Poulsen] Should the Baltic countries as independent states not be able to freely decide their relationship with the alliance themselves?

[Krylov] The best possible relations between neighbors are of the greatest importance. If our neighbors become NATO members, we will perceive it as an organization that is directed against our country.

[Poulsen] What will Russia do?

[Krylov] We will take the necessary precautions, politically and militarily. Nothing like an "open strike" [preceding words in English] in the first instance. But if new military groupings are formed close to our borders and if reinforcements are moved into one country or the other, we must strengthen our own potential.

[Poulsen] Does Russia see a new threat scenarios?

[Krylov] I am asking myself why NATO must expand right now. Who is the enemy? What threats exist to the stability and security of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and the Baltic countries? Regarding Kaliningrad, which has been in focus quite a lot, we are doing our best to pull out our troops. We are actually pulling out more troops than we are sending in. But there are difficulties for the people who live there.

There is another threat that is far more serious: rising crime involving arms sales and drug trading.

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Baltic Officials React to CEFTA Expansion Plans

WS1409095695 Tallinn BNS in English 1509 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Sept 13, BNS — Members of the Central European Free Trade Agreement have indicated their trade bloc is ready for eastward expansion with an eye on the Baltics, but two of the three Baltic nations show no eagerness to join.

CEFTA prime ministers invited Lithuania's Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys to their second annual meeting in Brno earlier this week and the host, Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus, said he saw that as a step toward taking in countries from that region.

The reaction from Estonia and Latvia, however, has been cool. "The Lithuanians have no right to speak on behalf of the other Baltic countries, but only themselves," said Valdis Krastinsh, Latvia's Ambassador to the Czech Republic. "We (Latvia) are not directly interested in CEFTA," he said in an interview with the Central European Business Weekly newspaper.

Estonian foreign ministry spokeswoman Mari-Ann Rikken told BNS the Baltic countries had decided that Lithuania, as the current president of the Baltic Council of Ministers, would represent all three at the CEFTA summit.

Estonia sent to Lithuania its position, which the latter was to present at the CEFTA meeting, Kelam said. She added that this was an example of cooperation among the Baltics.

Estonian and Latvian diplomats told the Central European Business Weekly their countries wanted to have separate free trade agreements with CEFTA members.

"We are using a step-by-step approach and becoming a member of CEFTA is not necessary," said Andres Rundu, 1st secretary at the Estonian embassy in Vienna.

He told the paper Estonia so far had held no negotiations on possible CEFTA membership.

Lithuania is the only Baltic country that has common borders with a CEFTA member. The paper says it was namely Poland who had pressed through an invitation for Lithuania to the Brno meeting.

Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius said on Monday Lithuania saw its future linked with the Visegrad countries.

CEFTA was established in November 1992 after mutual trade in the region declined dramatically following the collapse of Comecon, the former Soviet-dominated trading pact. It comprises the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland and is soon to admit Slovenia as the fifth member.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 15 Sep

LD1509061895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0539 GMT 15 Sep 95

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW Sep 15 (Itar-Tass) - IZVESTIYA reports that State inspections of nuclear facilities of military purpose are discontinued from Friday, just as is the State supervision of the storage and disposal of nuclear weapons and radioactive waste by the Defence Ministry.

This is done on the strength of Presidential Instruction 350 dated July 26 which entrusted inspectorial duties to the Defence Ministry.

Yuriy Vishnevskiy, Chairman of Russia's Federal Inspectorate supervising nuclear and radiological safety, told Izvestiya that his agency regards the decision as ill-considered, since military nuclear facilities on Russia's territory pose the greatest danger as of now.

IZVESTIYA runs a commentary headlined "The Serbs are unfortunate, of course, but this is not yet a ground to prepare for a Third World War".

The newspaper's analyst Sergey Dardykin is of the opinion that the shot fired from a grenade launcher on the U.S. Embassy in Moscow has been associated in the minds of Western analysts with a volley of Russian politicians' critical remarks addressed to Washington, NATO and the West in general. The verbal toughness limit has already been exhausted. The only effect of that was that Western partners began to get offended. The writer of the article does not rule it out that Russia may find itself in utter isolation.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA points out that a clue that the grenade launcher shot against the U.S. Embassy in Moscow was connected with the developments in the former Yugoslavia has not been confirmed so far.

An unnamed staff member of the U.S. embassy, in an interview with the newspaper, qualified the shot as "a regrettable incident which remains on the conscience of a madman".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries an analytical article on political prospects of the Communist Party of Russia (CPR). The analyst notes an influx of former supporters of the Yabloko bloc and Russia's Democratic Choice movement, as well as people, who previously did not affiliate themselves with any party, to the CPR. "Nevertheless, while evaluating the CPR's chances in

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the forthcoming elections, one should not overestimate its possibilities," the analyst points out.

IZVESTIYA carries a dispatch by Pavel Yakubovich, a journalist from the Sovetskaya Belarus newspaper, sent in specially for Izvestiya. Nowadays, when colourful air balloons have become part of the international scene, only a person with a rich imagination can fire on them. Even the circumstance that the air balloon was discovered near military airfields hardly prompted the need to attack it, the newspaper said.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA points out that "from the viewpoint of law Belarus helicopter-borne gunmen, who shot down the air balloon, acted irreproachably."

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on a rise in the degree of safety in the operation of Russia's nuclear power stations over the past two years.

The newspaper's analysts have found that there were 58 malfunctions in the operation of nuclear power stations over the first six months in the current year as against 88 in the corresponding period of 1994.

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Strobe Talbott Pays Visit, Meets Leading Officials

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement

LD1409172795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1611 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 14 Sep (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev today met Strobe Talbott, U.S. first deputy secretary of state, who arrived in Moscow on the instructions of U.S. President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

ITAR-TASS has received a statement from the Foreign Ministry that says: "During the discussion, which lasted about three hours, the parties openly expressed their well-known views on the situation in Bosnia. The Russian party underlined the need for NATO air strikes to be stopped and for an immediate cease-fire to be declared near Sarajevo, as well as throughout Bosnia."

The Russian Foreign Ministry Information and Press Department says Kozyrev advised President Boris Yeltsin of the U.S. President's considerations, conveyed by Talbott. "The positions of both presidents have been taken into account and the necessity has been underlined to step up efforts jointly with other partners of the Contact Group to reach an agreement, which could break the deadlock and give a new impetus to the search for a comprehensive political settlement. To this aim, it has been agreed that the parties should use their influence to bring pressure to bear on the warring sides," the statement by the Foreign Ministry says.

Paper Speculates on News Blackout

MK1509111895 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 15 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Georgiy Bovt and Natalya Kalashnikova: "A Man-to-Man Talk Without Witnesses"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was quiet in the Balkans yesterday. The guns were silent: NATO forces suspended the bombing of Serb positions. The diplomats were silent, deciding to postpone by a day a Contact Group session planned for yesterday. The UN Security Council was silent, moving, at the request of the Contact Group, the discussion on the further extension of the partial lifting of sanctions against Belgrade. Military men and politicians gave different explanations for such a sudden lull. The silence was also needed to listen to what was going on in Moscow. Here, Strobe Talbott, first deputy secretary of state, was awaited. But the visit passed behind a soundproof screen.

According to the U.S. State Department, Talbott was to arrive in Moscow yesterday morning at approximately 1100. However, people at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow yesterday for some reason or other could not answer your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent's apparently simple and, generally speaking, routine (as a prelude to a question about their agenda) question about whether Talbott will meet with Andrey Kozyrev. This produced an intriguing effect and drove [your correspondent] to address the same question to the Russian Foreign Ministry, to the department directly responsible for the preparation of the visit. People there evaded the question with utmost tact. Bewilderment and professional interest urged your correspondent to activate informal sources, as a result of which it transpired that a kind of taboo has been imposed on this subject at the Russian Foreign Ministry and at the U.S. Embassy. All Russian news agencies were also silent, producing, in concert [druzhno], information about the visit to Moscow by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and his meeting with Kozyrev. By midday even omniscient colleagues from REUTER were quite sure that Talbott had not arrived in Moscow yet. Meanwhile, the U.S. Embassy advised KOMMERSANT-DAILY to "confirm the information" about his arrival personally with the deputy secretary of state. It should be noted that for all the confidentiality of the talks, the program of a visit at such a level itself was never a secret to anybody.

Still, according to information in KOMMERSANT-DAILY's possession, Talbott arrived in Moscow at 1100 and had a meeting with Andrey Kozyrev. It took place in total secrecy: Not even photojournalists were allowed in. Why?

The negotiations promised to be very difficult and even acute from the start. The official agenda included two main points: the situation in Bosnia and preparations for the next Russian-U.S. summit. Shortly before the visit Russian diplomats were speculating informally that the unseemly story of the UN and NATO memorandum on Bosnia, which proved to be off limits to Russia and China, would become the main subject for discussion and for Moscow to express its outrage with the NATO bombing and with the fact, unprecedented in UN history, that information was concealed from two permanent members of the Security Council. The shot from a grenade launcher on the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, which in itself is in no position to mar bilateral relations, has become a symbol of how acutely Russia has recently begun to perceive NATO and U.S. behavior in the Balkans.

It was also clear from the outset that Talbott was going to Moscow to remove tensions and calm somewhat the Russian authorities, whose emotional rhetoric against NATO is taking on a higher pitch with every hour. It was apparently no accident that U.S. State Department

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Press Secretary Nicholas Burns, after expressing regret over the shelling of the embassy, said that he does not believe the shooting was connected with disagreements between Russia and the United States over a Bosnian settlement. He also pointed out that in spite of a "major disagreement" between Moscow and Washington, it should not be concluded that it will damage the state of bilateral relations on other problems. However, Moscow, driven into a corner by NATO, and Andrey Kozyrev, who received a good dressing-down from the president, have been left no option but to take up a fighting stance and proceed to counterattack, even if in effect without allies. Talbott was simply the first to hear everything said to him directly. This is unpleasant.

U.S. Embassy 'Knew' Terrorist Act Being Prepared

LD1409122595 St. Petersburg Fifth Channel Television Network in Russian 1130 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There is evidence suggesting that the U.S. Embassy in Moscow knew an act of terrorism was being prepared. An ITAR-TASS correspondent learned from a trustworthy source that in the current political situation, given the disagreements between Russia and the United States over the NATO bombings of the Serbs, it was to the advantage of U.S. diplomats to allow this provocation to be carried out.

Security measures have been tightened around the U.S. Consulate General and other diplomatic missions in St. Petersburg. According to the city internal affairs directorate, the number of militiamen guarding foreign missions in St. Petersburg has been increased five-fold.

Status of Investigation Cited

MM1409191695 Moscow TRUD in Russian 15 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Yuriy Dmitriyev accompanied by "Stop Press" item: "American Embassy in Moscow Targeted by Grenade Launcher. All Law Enforcement Organs in Capital Alerted"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Nothing like it had occurred in Moscow or in any other Russian city where there is a foreign mission. Automatic rifles and grenade launchers have been fired at the cars of businessmen, bankers, and entrepreneurs. People, offices, and dachas have been fired at. Last Tuesday [as published] there was an incident which brought all Moscow's law enforcement organs to their feet. [passage omitted]

Yesterday we contacted military experts and representatives of the Russian Internal Affairs Ministry and Federal Security Service. Colonel N., recently back from Chechnya and well acquainted with ground forces' combat equipment, said that in all probability it was a RPG-18 "Mukha" grenade launcher. It is a single-shot weapon designed to destroy armored vehicles. It is around 60 centimeters long and weighs around 10 kilograms. The grenade launcher can easily be carried in a rucksack or traveling bag. In Chechnya the Army can buy a "Mukha" from gunmen for approximately 300,000 rubles [R].

Informed sources in the Federal Security Service said that the weapon had been fired by a young person of medium height wearing a tracksuit and dark glasses. He had left the grenade launcher tube and gloves at the scene if the crime. He had made his escape through a yard.

Yesterday teams of officers worked throughout the day. They questioned witnesses and inhabitants of houses, stores, and institutions in the immediate vicinity. The neighborhood and the criminal's possible escape route were closely examined. No details have been given as yet. But it is clear that the criminal was a professional. It was no accident, of course, that there were communications systems, teletypes, and cryptographic equipment in the place that was hit. Judging by unofficial conversations, U.S. Embassy personnel are not ruling out the possibility of a link with the well-known U.S. position on the Bosnian conflict. They believe it may be the work of ultranationalists or Islamists. In short, there are plenty of theories. [Dmitriyev ends]

STOP PRESS: The Moscow Presnenskaya Interrayon Prosecutor's Office has instituted criminal proceedings under the heading "Terrorism." A special incident room has been set up at the capital's internal affairs main administration to solve the crime. There is no favorite theory at the moment. By the time this edition went to press no Indentikit picture meeting the proper requirements had been produced.

Specialists are saying that the search for the criminal will be very difficult. As far as we know, a dog which came with the operations team picked up the scent of the gunman and led the officers to a nearby building site, where the trail ran cold. There is every reason to believe that there was a car waiting there for the terrorist and that he escaped in it.

The law enforcement organs say that there have been no previous cases of terrorist acts against the American Embassy. But it has been learned from unofficial sources that approximately a month ago a weapon was seized in a kiosk opposite the embassy. It is not clear yet whether or not it had anything to do with terrorists.

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Witness Says Two Men Involved

LD1409210695 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 14 Sep 95

[Report by correspondent Arkadiy Mamontov; from the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the few witnesses who were in the courtyard of the residential block when a grenade launcher fired a shot from its archway at the U.S. Embassy, the crime took place presumably in the following way: The likely positions of the attacker are shown on the map which you can now see. [Video shows a map of the streets around the U.S. Embassy]

Pay attention to the parked car in front of the archway. Eyewitnesses describe it as a dark-colored large foreign car with darkened windows. Straight after the shooting it went through the archway where the gunman jumped in, went through the courtyards and came out onto the Garden Ring. It is most likely that there were two criminals.

[Male witness] It happened from the archway.

[Mamontov] From the archway. Were there one or two?

[Witness] I think two.

[Mamonotov] According to another version the car turned into Trubnikovskiy Lane. Everyone who was in the courtyard of the house at the moment of the crime refused to give an interview in front of the cameras. But it was possible to clarify some details of the crime from conversations with them. Many had the impression that the act was well planned. Everything happened very quickly and no one managed to remember any details of the criminals' clothing and their car.

It should be said that according to information from the law-enforcement bodies there are two photofit pictures of the attacker. It is clear that the investigation will look for a so-called geographical lead behind the grenade-launcher, that is when and where it was made and how it fell into the hands of terrorists. But as we were told in the Moscow Main Directorate for Internal Affairs, its a tenuous trail bearing in mind the uncontrolled movement of weapons in the country. It should be said that the case is made more complicated by the fact that the criminals have left practically no traces.

For the time being, the militia are checking all foreign cars corresponding to the description of the plotters' car.

Spokesman: Relations Not Affected

LD1409141095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1353 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Arsenaiy Mirosov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, September 14 (Itar-Tass) — "A terrorist act committed against the U.S. embassy in Moscow on Wednesday will not damage Russo-U.S. relations," said the Director of the Press and Information Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, Grigoriy Karasin.

"I am confident that both Russians and Americans have enough common sense and self-control to neutralize this incident and do everything possible to prevent similar incidents in future both in Russia and the United States," Karasin said.

According to the Russian diplomat, Russia's competent authorities investigating this incident have been operating in contact with their U.S. colleagues. Measures have been taken to tighten security at the U.S. embassy, Karasin said.

Attack Dismissed as 'Hooliganism'

MM1409183495 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Sergey Chernykh and Aleksey Sinelnikov accompanied by "Own Information" report under general headline: "Shot at the Very Heart of Democracy. Whoever Fired at the American Embassy in Moscow Escaped Through Yards in Direction of Kremlin"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A grenade was fired at the American Embassy building in Russia at 1625 hours Wednesday. The shaped-charge projectile burst through the wall and into a room with office machinery in it and became jammed in an enormous photocopier. The shock wave from the explosion smashed several windows. There were no casualties. [passage omitted]

In an interview a diplomat who wished to remain anonymous said that "it is a common phenomenon for Third World countries." Other embassy officials we asked, including the press attache, were sure Moscow officialdom was not behind it. The Americans did not think they needed to provide any significant additional security — that is the responsibility of the state on whose territory the embassy is situated. In short, the diplomats regard the attack as an act of hooliganism rather than a significant political act.

The archway from which the grenade was fired is approximately 50-60 meters from the embassy. The terrorist had the target almost directly in his sights; the

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sun was behind the building so it did not prevent him from taking aim. He definitely could not have fired from the place where the material evidence was discarded — the arch was in the way. One presumes that he fired quickly without taking precise aim — merely at the center of the building. He was able to escape through yards in the direction of the Kremlin. It was possible to establish in the course of an independent investigation that the perpetrator's only escape route was toward kindergarten No. 1770, then past it into Trubnikovskiy Passage. There was probably a car waiting for him there.

In an interview with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA Russian counterintelligence service analysts said that the most likely theory they were working on was the so-called "Serbian trail." In other words, it was the handiwork of opponents of the NATO bombing in Serbia. But no terrorist organization has as yet taken responsibility for it. [End Chernykh and Sinelnikov reportage]

[Begin "Own information" report] Our correspondent contacted the department for the protection of diplomatic missions and put a question to a senior official:

"In your 25 years with the Internal Affairs Ministry have there been many similar attacks on foreign embassies?"

"The frequency of attacks or incidents for some reasons is connected with the spring and fall. Recently guards detained a guy who was hanging around the embassy, looking suspicious. There was an incident seven years ago. A security guard escorted a USSR citizen into the American Embassy because he had expressed a wish to emigrate. When he was refused he locked himself in a room and blew himself up."

Embassy Calls Attack 'Annoying Incident'

MM1509102495 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Mikhail Pogorelyy: "Potshot at Embassy or U.S. Policy?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Wednesday [13 September] at around 1630 hours the U.S. Embassy in Moscow was shot at — apparently from a "Mukh" hand-held grenade launcher. According to preliminary information from the Russian law enforcement organs, the terrorist act against the U.S. mission was carried out by a single person — a tall middle-aged man whose face was covered by a black mask. The shot was fired from underneath the arch of the apartment block opposite the U.S. diplomatic mission in Novinskiy Boulevard.

According to the standards of international law this act is a serious violation of the Vienna conventions defining the status of foreign diplomats. But from the human viewpoint it is also a very dangerous crime which could have resulted in numerous casualties — the grenade penetrated the wall of the building and exploded inside the premises.

Luckily there were no casualties. The embassy press service, which we contacted Thursday [14 September] morning, reported that the material damage caused by the explosion was not serious, that it had not yet been possible to quantify it in dollar terms, and that only some equipment, specifically a photocopying machine, had been damaged.

The U.S. diplomatic mission's staffers regard what happened as an "annoying incident for which some madman was responsible" and they do not view it as a manifestation of hostility or unfriendliness by all Russians. USIA reported that President Bill Clinton, who was immediately informed of the incident in Moscow, also took the news calmly and has not made any sudden moves.

The theories regarding a link between the embassy shooting and U.S. actions in the former Yugoslavia, which have been put forward by representatives of law enforcement organs, have so far not been backed up by anything. Nevertheless the U.S. Embassy and U.S. consulates in Russia have had their security strengthened, police and Federal Security Service formations in Moscow have been put on a heightened state of alert, and an intensive search for the terrorist is under way.

Zyuganov Calls Act 'Planned Provocation'

LD1509113195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1032 GMT 15 Sep 95

[Quotation marks as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 15 (Interfax) — The leader of the Communist faction in the State Duma Gennadiy Zyuganov on Thursday evening before his departure to Irkutsk, said that the shot at the US Embassy "smells of a planned provocation".

"I regret that such a situation has been created in Moscow when it is possible to fire without reprisal at an embassy from an anti-tank grenade launcher in the city center in broad daylight," he said.

Zyuganov believes the incident indicates that "unbridled extremists are sure that they are untouchable and completely lack respect for the country's power and its international authority".

He believes that Russia now needs "the consolidation of all responsible democratic forces" which "should be called to be vigilant and responsible". Now "sober-minded forces in society" must be interested in "keeping

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the situation under control, curbing extremism, holding the elections, bringing pragmatic politicians to power and creating a coalition government," said Zyuganov.

He said that "the anniversary of shooting by tank fire of the Supreme Soviet in October 1993 is approaching and provocations of extremist forces are also possible in Moscow."

The key task is to hold all planned mass functions calmly and prevent any provocations. Extremist calls have nothing in common with serious politics," he said.

Moscow Receives Copy of 'Secret' UN-NATO Memo

LD1409203395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1706 GMT 14 Sep 95

[Report by correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 14 (Interfax) — A high-ranking Russian diplomat told Interfax Thursday that the U.N. security Council members, including Russia, had been handed the secret Memorandum of Understanding, concluded by the U.N. and NATO.

As reported earlier, the U.N. leaders had previously refused to give Russia and other Security Council members the memorandum under the pretext that it was of a confidential nature.

He also said that this document had been made accessible to the public "on Russia's insistence."

"We can see now that this document was of cardinal importance for NATO's bomb attacks on Bosnia," he went on to say.

"Russia is studying the document now and is planning to initiate its serious discussion in the Security Council," said the diplomat.

He did not rule out that "the Security Council members might decide to take appropriate measures", and gave to understand that Russia was likely to insist on this.

"It's not the conclusion of the memorandum as such we are protesting against. We are protesting against its conclusion behind the back of the Security Council, many of whose members did not know it existed," said the diplomat.

"Moscow cannot understand," he continued, "what right the U.N. secretariat, a technical body, had to bypass Security Council members in a question which has to do with the maintenance of peace and security."

A similar incident happened back in 1951, when the decision on operations in Korea was taken in the absence of a Soviet representative, he said.

Commenting on the expansion of NATO's military operation in Bosnia and on the Croat-Muslim offensive on the Bosnian Serb positions, he said that "since the beginning, Moscow has warned the international community that NATO's strikes on one of the sides go beyond the Security Council's mandate and may lead to military escalation in the region."

"Exactly this has happened," he said.

"Russia's voice was not heeded. But now the need has arisen to end bomb attacks and put the settlement process on a political footing," he continued.

He believes that "the countries concerned might put pressure on the conflicting parties, thus putting an end to military actions."

"The more so, since the parties involved in the conflict are ready to gather at a negotiating table and adopt the contact group's peace plan." he said.

He announced that the Security Council continued to discuss the Russia-proposed draft resolution demanding an early end to the NATO operation in Bosnia.

He also pointed out that "Russia does not intend to withdraw it from discussion despite the western states' attempts to do so."

"Such a policy pursued by Moscow fully justifies itself," he said.

He explained that "the Western European countries had hoped to attain their goals quickly and that the Bosnian Serbs would surrender and fulfil the NATO ultimatum on removing heavy weapons from the 'safe area' around Sarajevo."

"Meanwhile, the events have taken a different course: under the cover of the NATO air strikes on the Serb positions, the Croat-Muslim troops launched an offensive. This obviously goes against the plans of Western European states which, judging by all accounts, are trying to find a way out of this air-strike diplomacy," said the diplomat.

UN Prepared To Answer Further Questions

LD1509085795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0709 GMT 15 Sep 95

[By Boris Sitnikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] UNITED NATIONS, September 15 (Itar- Tass) — On Russia's demand, the secret Memorandum of Understanding between the U.N

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and NATO about the use of military force against the Bosnian Serbs has been finally circulated as a confidential document among U.N. Security Council members.

On Russia's insistence, an official conclusion about the August 28 mortar shell explosion on the Sarajevo market has also been circulated as a confidential document among Security Council members. The explosion had served as a ground for the start of NATO punitive operations against the Bosnian Serbs.

"The discussion of a Russia-sponsored draft resolution on Bosnia- Herzegovina was continued today," Sergey Lavrov, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation at the U.N., told Itar-Tass on Thursday.

"We insisted that the U.N.-NATO Memo of understanding about the use of military force against the Bosnian Serbs be discussed in detail at one of the nearest consultative meetings. On Russia's insistence, the Memo was finally circulated as a confidential document at the Security Council on Wednesday", Lavrov said.

"The U.N. Secretary-General sent an official letter to the Russian mission in response to Russia's concern and to the questions it had asked in recent days. The letter, which is to be studied attentively, emphasises in particular that if the Russian side still has any questions, the U.N. Secretariat is prepared to give appropriate explanations," the Russian Representative pointed out.

The situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina is due to be considered at a consultative meeting of the U.N. Security Council on Friday.

Karasin Derides 'Backroom Document'

LD1409183895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1706 GMT 14 Sep 95

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 14 (Interfax) — Russia is so adamant about the secret UN-NATO memorandum, "firstly, because this is a backroom document compiled behind the backs of certain Security Council members, notably Russia and China and, secondly, because it was signed between the UN Secretariat and NATO," Grigoriy Karasin, an official spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, said at a briefing in Moscow Thursday.

He said that the UN is an organization of countries and the UN Secretariat is only a structure which implements the decisions made by authorized officials of these countries.

"Signing secret documents on behalf of the UN with a regional military alliance sets a very dangerous precedent," Karasin continued.

Karasin said Russia paid very serious attention to this problem.

Karasin said Russia wanted to clarify the present situation in order to prevent analogous incidents from re-occurring in the future.

He recalled that a few days ago "Moscow said in no ambiguous terms that this document which authorized large-scale use of armed forces in a regional conflict goes far beyond the limits set by the UN Security Council."

Israel's Rabin Pays Official Visit to Moscow

Meets Chernomyrdin on Economic Ties

LD1409144795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 14 (Interfax) — The supplies of Russian nuclear reactors to Iran are purely peaceful and do not threaten Israel's security, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told his Israeli counterpart Yitzhaq Rabin during talks in Moscow on Thursday.

"We have given firm assurances that Russia is carrying out its cooperation program with Iran in a purely peaceful aspect, strictly fulfilling its commitments concerning the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty," Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk told reporters after the talks.

According to the diplomat, Chernomyrdin told Rabin that the former "preliminary inter-departmental agreements with Iran which were beyond the framework of peaceful cooperation, were annulled."

Posuvalyuk said that at the talks the Russian side had proposed several new ideas for the development of economic cooperation, for example in such spheres as "water desalination, the use of shales and the creation of high-tech joint ventures."

Chernomyrdin and Rabin stated that the trade turnover between the two countries is not growing as fast as both sides would like.

Last year the Russian-Israeli trade turnover amounted to $360 million. This year it is expected to reach $400 million.

Posuvalyuk also said that the two prime ministers had discussed in detail the problem of "extremism and terrorism in the Middle East and in the former Soviet

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Union, as well as the development of the Middle East settlement process."

Discusses Nuclear Issues With Kozyrev

LD1409150795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Sept 14 (INTERFAX) — The Russian-Iranian nuclear cooperation is "purely peaceful and in full compliance with the universally acknowledged international norms". This statement was made by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev at his meeting in Moscow on Thursday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The Russian Foreign Ministry official spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing in Moscow on the same day that the Russian side had noted that "Israel's joining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty would largely help establish a Middle East's nuclear-free status".

Karasin particularly noted that Kozyrev had outlined Russia's approach to the nuclear cooperation with Iran at the request of the Israeli prime minister.

According to Karasin, Kozyrev and Rabin "focused their attention on the progress of the Middle East peace process and on the situation in the region as a whole".

"Rabin told the Russian minister about the state of affairs at the Israeli-Palestinian talks. The two sides voiced the common view that the forthcoming signing of an agreement on broadening the Palestinian self-government is an important step towards a comprehensive and lasting settlement in the Middle East," said Karasin.

For his part, Kozyrev "spoke highly about the firm stand by the Israeli leadership and the Palestinian administration in terms of the resistance to acts of violence and terrorism".

Views Military Ties With Grachev

LD1409143895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1416 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — Visiting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev agreed on Thursday that a memorandum on deepening military cooperation between Russia and Israel will be signed during an official visit by Grachev to Israel from November 1-5.

"Our contacts are becoming traditional," Grachev said. He was looking forward to the forthcoming visit, he added. Today's meeting will serve as a good springboard to closer military relations, according to Grachev.

Rabin Discusses Iran Nuclear Deal at News Conference

LD1409185895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1808 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Aleksandr Zhudro]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW September 14 (Itar-Tass) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin received additional information on the Russian-Iranian nuclear deal which causes "deep concern" in Tel Aviv, but Moscow made it clear it would go on with the agreements.

Rabin told a press conference Thursday "much has been clarified, a better understanding has been reached, but certain differences in viewpoints remain."

He stressed that his talks with Russian premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Defence Minister Pavel Grachev "left an impression" that Russia was going to abide by the nuclear agreements with Tehran.

"I do not pretend to make Russia drop its obligations. Anyway the Russian side provided additional information on the issue which interests us", Rabin said.

Moscow is to ship reactors for the Iranian nuclear power plant in Bushehr, while the United States and Israel expressed concern the deal may help Tehran build nuclear weapons.

Rabin said his talks in Moscow focused on a wide range of bilateral relations, including a possibility of cooperation in certain spheres of defence industry. He said he had informed the Russian leaders on the Middle East peace process, on problems and difficulties in the region.

The main responsibility for the fate of peace talks is born by the participants in the conflict. As for today an important result was achieved in relations between Israel and Jordan, a new agreement with Palestinians is being prepared, it is necessary to overcome contradictions with Syria and Lebanon, according to Rabin.

"I believe the moment has come when it is useful to inform the government, the Foreign ministry and the Defence Ministry of Russia about how things are going in the framework of the peaceful process", Rabin said.

Emotions in Israel regarding the line of Rabin's government towards a compromise with Palestinians spread also to the Russian Foreign Ministry press centre where the conference was held. Several activists of the rightist

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Jewish movements picketed the press centre and demonstrated to surprised passers-by a pig's head — a symbol insulting for Israelites. The demonstrators explained the picket as an expression of their extreme disapproval of Rabin's policy.

Rabin, in his turn, told reporters that he had not even noticed the protest action.

After the press conference the Israeli premier left for home. In November he will receive Russian Defence minister Pavel Grachev.

Rabin Fears of Iran Nuclear Ambitions 'Groundless'

LD1409152195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 14 (Interfax) — Russian and Iranian officials are holding talks and working on contracts in 12 areas of cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear power, a senior Russian Atomic Industry Ministry official has said.

He said that the talks were being held within the framework of the Russian-Iranian agreement concluded back in 1992. The official said that only the peaceful use of nuclear power was being discussed.

"We have authentic information that Iran does not seek nuclear capability," he said.

The official described as groundless Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's fear about Russian-Iranian cooperation in the nuclear sphere voiced at his meeting with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The Atomic Ministry official recalled that Israel itself had nuclear weapons and that there was still no proof that Iran was working on its own atom bomb.

Russia is to start working on the contract to build the first unit of the nuclear power plant in Busher equipped with a light-water reactor. The contract would take effect in October or November this year. Russia and Iran have signed a number of amendments to the contract concerning the supplies of nuclear fuel to Iran, the processing of spent nuclear fuel in Russia and a scheme of payment for the services extended by Russian experts.

The Atomic Ministry official said that the first unit of the nuclear power plant in Busher would be completed within 50-55 months.

After that both sides will consider the implementation of the other Russian-Iranian contract, concluded in May 1993.

Under that agreement Russia will build two more power units equipped with less powerful light water reactors in Iran. This contract has not been effected yet. Iran wants bigger nuclear power plants to be built first.

Vows Not To 'Neutralize' Nuclear Site

TA1509101395 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Sep 95 p A5

["Exclusive" report by Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow — Yesterday, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin made it clear to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that his government will not retract on its intention to sell a nuclear power station to Iran. Chernomyrdin tried to calm Rabin, saying: "We understand Iranian nuclear aspirations, and I can assure you that we are aware of everything because Iran is our neighbor. That is why we will not allow our know-how and technology to be used for the production of nuclear weapons." [passage omitted]

At the end of his meeting with Chernomyrdin, Rabin said that despite its fears, Israel will not take unilateral steps to neutralize the Iranian reactor the way it had with the Iraqi reactor in 1981. Rabin noted that the Iraqi facility had posed a greater direct threat to Israel than the Russian-built Iranian reactor will pose. [passage omitted]

Rabin Interviewed on Iran Nuclear Deal, Syria

LD1509000695 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1950 GMT 14 Sep 95

[Report on interview with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by correspondent Sergey Dorenko in Moscow on 14 September for the "Versions" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Sergey Dorenko] Yitzhaq Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, has arrived in Moscow on a mission that is by no means secret. He is not hiding himself from the press and he began his working day this morning by meeting the "Versions" team after a five-hour sleep. [video shows Rabin seated in a room near a fireplace answering questions from Sergey Dorenko who is off camera]

[Begin recording] [Dorenko] Why do you think that the Russian nuclear reactor in Iran will pose a threat to your country?

[Rabin, in English with superimposed translation into Russian] It is because of the policy that Iran is pursuing in the Middle East and even outside the region. Iran is disseminating an ideology which I call Khomeynism, without Khomeyni, not just in the Muslim world, but throughout the whole world. In Israel this is expressed in the terror being perpetrated by Palestinian terrorist

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groups like Hamas or Islamic Jihad which is directed against the peace process and against the agreement that Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO concluded. They proclaimed their goal.

All the actions of the terrorists can be boiled down to a desire to torpedo the agreement and thereby halt the peaceful settlement process. In Lebanon there is the Hezbollah group and terrorist acts are being carried out from Lebanon. All the organizations I have named are connected with Iran and with its ideology. Iran is also attempting to destroy such restrained and untroubled regimes in the Arab world as the Egyptian regime of President Mubarak. Moreover, Iran has created and now maintains an infrastructure for world terror. The blast at the Jewish center in Buenos Aires, Argentina is an example of this.

I would also not rule out Iran's involvement in the spiralling terrorism that France is now going through. The terrorist acts in that country were carried out by Muslim extremists. If Iran now gets the military potential, and no doubt nuclear potential, it will certainly create a very potentially dangerous situation for everybody and these circumstances could hamper the process of finding a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. [end recording]

[Dorenko] The Israeli prime minister came to Moscow with two main topics, which he discussed with us before going to see the Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, Foreign Minister Kozyrev, and Defense Minister Grachev. The first and main topic was Russia's nuclear deal with Iran. The second is Israel's relations with Syria. Rabin hopes that Russia can assist in the negotiations with Damascus, but we will come back to this topic a little bit later.

Now concerning the nuclear reactors. This topic was one of the main issues in Russian-U.S. relations before the Bosnian issue pushed it into the background. [passage omitted: Dorenko gives a recap of U.S. fears of Iran using the Russian nuclear reactor for military purposes going back to spring 1995 over archive footage of U.S. and Russian officials, a military parade, an installation]

[Begin recording] [Dorenko] Mr. Prime Minister, the Russian side claims that complete control of Iran's nuclear program is possible.

[Rabin, in English with superimposed translation into Russian] I am not saying with absolute certainty that nuclear power installations are oriented only for purposes of war, but there will always be a danger that one could use such installations for military purposes. Moreover, Israel is convinced that the possession of the installations will boost their ambitions and this will have a negative impact throughout the whole world.

[Dorenko] The U.S. President and the present White House administration brought to Moscow some secret information on the nuclear sites in Iran. Do you have any such secret information with you?

[Rabin, in English with superimposed translation into Russian] I do not believe that we have to deliver information of this kind to Russia and if Russia is in need of such information, it is quite capable of getting such information itself. We can only add some details to what it already knows. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Dorenko] Do you have any serious arguments for Russia itself, such as the prospect of Russia recieving $8 billion from Iran as results of the cooperation?

[Rabin, in English with superimposed translation into Russian] I do not think that Russia will be able to get the money it is being promised for this project. I cannot but dwell on the unsolved economic problems of Russia. I have to focus the attention of the Russian politicians on the danger that this deal poses throughout the Middle East and, in the future, throughout the world and in particular to Russia. [end recording]

[Dorenko] Now concerning the settlement in the Middle East. There is an opinion in Moscow that Russia's role in the Middle East is nil. Prime Minister Rabin has a different opinion.

[Begin recording] [Dorenko] Russian politicians are overloaded with complexes. There are looking for, and with sickening satisfaction finding proof, of this country's declining prestige. Is your arrival in Russia a gesture of respect towards its former glory or do you really think that Russia is capable of influencing the situation in your region?

[Rabin] I believe that as the Russian foreign minister is a power-wielding minister, he can influence the development of the talks process both with the Palestinians and with Syria. The problems with the Syrian side are not only in the matters chosen for the talks, but also the mood at the talks. This has happened with Egypt in the past, and this is happening with the Palestinians at present, and with Jordan under the current situation.

The Syrians do not want to agree with us at all. They want to have talks with the Americans. We have met the Syrian delegation twice, and both times they have demanded that the talks should take place in Washington, so that everyone will sit, figuratively speaking, under the American umbrella, that is under

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stong American patronage. We appreciate the readiness of the Americans to help, but we would prefer to sort it out together with Syria. We would like to sort our mutual demands ourselves without any third party present, but with the co-sponsorship of the Americans and the Russians. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Israeli, Russian Diplomats Discuss Bilateral Ties

MK1509075695 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 14 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Abarinov: "Israel 'Needs Russia' in Negotiations With Syria. Nuclear Cooperation Between Moscow and Tehran Will Become a Subject of Negotiations Between Yitzhak Rabin and Viktor Chernomyrdin"]

[FBIS Translated Text] To all appearances, Moscow and Tel Aviv will not find a common language in discussing the Iranian threat. The Israeli side has already declared that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who arrives in Russia on an official visit today, intends to raise the issue of Russian nuclear reactor deliveries to Tehran in his negotiations with Viktor Chernomyrdin. In a conversation with your SEGODNYA correspondent, Anna Azari, minister counselor at the Israeli Embassy in Russia, described this problem as a key item on the agenda for the visit. "We are receiving conflicting information from various sources, including reassuring statements by Moscow," she said. "But, of course, nobody in Russia is in a position to handle the issue better than Prime Minister Chernomyrdin."

Meanwhile, the Russian Federation Atomic Energy Ministry is far from inclined to any compromise. Responding to statements by Israeli officials, Lev Ryabev, first deputy atomic energy minister, said in an interview with INTERFAX that the Russian side did not intend to make any concessions on this question.

The Russian-Iranian nuclear deal is a subject of serious concern not only for Tel Aviv, but also for Washington. The matter was discussed at the Russian-U.S. summit in May. Boris Yeltsin agreed to drop the military part from the contract, in particular the delivery of gas centrifuges to enrich spent material, while transferring the remaining, "civilian" part to the Gore-Chernomyrdin commission for appraisal.

As far as is known, the commission has not yet prepared its conclusion, but work at the construction site in Bushehr is in full swing. In August, an Atomic Energy Ministry delegation led by Deputy Minister Yevgeniy Reshetnikov visited Iran. On 29 August, Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov announced that within the framework of an enlarged contract, in addition to the nuclear power plant in Bushehr, Russia would build another four light-water research reactors. Responding to a question from your SEGODNYA correspondent a few days ago, Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry Information and Press Department, said that he saw nothing strange about the statement by the Atomic Energy Ministry representative. "Some practical work must be under way, and if Rabin shows an interest, corresponding explanations will be provided to him," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said, noting that Moscow makes no secret of its cooperation with Tehran.

In addition to the Iranian problem, Yitzhak Rabin will also discuss with Chernomyrdin the Near East settlement. As Ms. Azari told your SEGODNYA correspondent, his intention is to broadly brief the head of the Russian Government on the peace process in the Near East. "We would like Moscow to receive this information from the Israeli side," she explained. Because the sides are now in direct negotiations, the role of the cosponsors of the peace process has changed, although as far as Israeli-Syrian relations are concerned it is still quite substantial. Israel believes that the peace process can only be advanced by a direct dialogue between the leaders of the two countries, "and here we need Russia," said Anna Azari. Furthermore, she admitted, "we do not always understand internal Syrian processes," and Moscow, which has years-long relations with Syria, can help Tel Aviv in analyzing these undercurrents. The peace process, the minister counselor noted, has its economic aspects: For instance, the agreement with Jordan provides for the writing off of its debt to the United States. In this respect, Russia as a country with huge economic potential can find its niche in the Near East.

Andrey Vdovin, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry Near East and Northern Africa Department, agreed in a conversation with your SEGODNYA correspondent that the role of the cosponsors of the peace process had changed. Just like Washington, Moscow joins the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations only when it is asked to. In late August, the Russian Foreign Ministry accredited its representative to the head of the Palestinian national administration. Vdovin stressed that this event should not be viewed as the establishment of diplomatic relations (it was so interpreted in a number of publications); likewise, the presentation by Aleksey Chistyakov of a letter signed by Andrey Kozyrev to Yasir Arafat is not credentials. The Russian diplomat recalled that under the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Palestinian autonomy has no statehood status and may not enter into diplomatic relations, but the agreement does not forbid Arafat to accredit foreign representatives. It is in this capacity that Aleksey Chistyakov, who continues to be on the staff of

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the Russian Embassy in Tel Aviv, was accredited with Arafat.

Andrey Vdovin also said that Russia had sent 45 armored personnel carriers to Palestinian police forces as a modest contribution to the development of the Palestinian autonomy. Russia has some ideas also as far as Syria is concerned. The diplomat said that in late July the president signed a program for Russian-Syrian cooperation. Moscow is expecting a visit by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara. According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, the main stumbling block at the Syrian-Israeli negotiations is not so much the demarcation of the border — an issue which they "have not yet got around to" — as the security measures in the Golan Heights, and in particular the problem of the Israeli electronic monitoring station on Mount Hermon. As is known, the Syrians demand its complete dismantling. Instead, Russia intends to offer the Syrians its own technical capabilities, including information received from space. As for economic relations with the region, in late October Russia intends to take part in an economic forum in Amman, which will be a logical continuation of the conference in Casablanca. The Russian delegation to Jordan will be led by Andrey Kozyrev.

Defense Minister Answers Questions From Journalists

Predicts NATO 'Ground Offensive'

LD1409212395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1940 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 14 (Interfax) — Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told journalists in Moscow Thursday [14 September] that NATO could soon use ground forces against the Bosnia Serbs, if it continued its air strikes.

"Knowing operations and tactics as a military, I predict that a ground offensive against the Bosnian Serbs will follow air strikes," he added. [sentence as received]

"Professionally speaking, there is a complex fire destruction of Bosnian Serbs under way, that is the air strikes and artillery shelling is nothing but preparation for ground operations. As a military, I can confidently state that no victory can be achieved by air strikes and artillery shelling only," he underlined.

If the forecast comes true, NATO will unleash large-scale military operations. "There is no need to deceive ourselves, these will not be local and short-term military operations; a large-scale aggression against the Bosnia Serbs will begin with participation of ground troops," Grachev added.

"It is necessary to immediately stop the war of NATO forces allied with the Croats and the Moslems against the Bosnian Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina," Grachev stated.

The only way out of the Balkan crisis is to immediately convoke an international conference with participation of Russia, U.S., U.K., France, Germany and all warring and interested sides, as proposed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, he added.

"Only in this case we can come to a positive result," Grachev said.

Grachev said he had received a letter from his Yugoslav counterpart, Pavle Bulatovic, Thursday evening. Bulatovic said that the Serbs, including Bosnian Serbs, "support the Russian president's proposal and are ready to do their best to constructively hold the conference."

NATO 'War' Against Serbs Must End

LD1409210195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2027 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW September 14 (Itar-Tass) — NATO forces are freely pounding the entire territory of the Serb Republic, Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said at a news conference today.

The air operation aims to pressure Bosnian Serbs by force, Grachev said.

"It is already clear that the pretext for it was the staged blast of the mortar shell downtown Sarajevo, the blame for which was hastily placed on the Bosnian Serbs without serious investigation being conducted," he said.

According to Grachev, the use of the NATO air force was sanctioned without consultations with the U.N. leadership, and this made the combat operation uncontrolled.

The NATO air force has carried out more than 3,500 combat flights, Grachev continued.

Some 50 per cent of warplanes recruited by NATO in the operation are used for air strikes, he said.

The U.N. Rapid Reaction Force deployed in Sarajevo is simultaneously using its artillery, firing from 400 to 1,000 shells at nighttime.

"Targets for the air force and artillery are obvious now," Grachev said.

According to Grachev, Bosnian Serb air-defence systems were initially hit, which deprived the Serbs of what scarce means for resistance they had.

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It is the view of Grachev that Serb sites are being struck now regardless of whether they pose a threat to the U.N.-designated safe areas around Sarajevo.

This, Grachev said, is a direct violation of the U.N. Security Council's resolution which mandates the use of the NATO air force only to maintain an air exclusion zone in Bosnia-Herzegovina and enforce the status of the U.N.'s safe zones and safety of peacekeeping forces.

Air strikes are being delivered on Bosnian Serb civilian targets, in particular bridges, Grachev said.

The strikes have wiped out a telecommunications network, including television and relay centres, he continued.

He said power and water supply networks have been crippled by the air raids in most of Serb residential areas.

The air strikes have been launched even against industrial sites, he said.

According to Grachev, residential areas of the Serb-held part of Sarajevo have been bombarded, with destruction of schools, kindergartens, hospitals and houses.

He said a total of 800 people died and more than 2,000 were wounded in the Serb Republic.

The war waged against the Bosnian Serbs by NATO forces jointly with Croats and Moslems must be stopped, Grachev said.

He said the only way out of it is Yeltsin-proposed international conference with participation of the U.S., Britain, France, Germany and Russia, and of leaders of hostile and mediator parties.

Suggests Aid to Serbs

LD1409195895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1656 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 14 (Interfax) — NATO air strikes have killed over 800 and wounded over 2,000 civilians in Bosnia-Herzegovina to date, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told Interfax in Moscow Thursday [14 September].

At the same time, the Bosnian Serb leadership insisted that casualties were much higher, he added.

Grachev said the rapid deployment forces also dealt artillery strikes on the positions of Bosnian Serbs. "They shoot up to 1,000 projectiles virtually every day," he noted.

Whereas earlier NATO carried out air strikes only against military objectives such as air defense systems and command points, now civilian targets such as bridges, energy and water supply installations, schools, hospitals and homes, are coming under shelling and bombing, he stated.

Grachev supported the immediate end to air strikes and conflict settlement by exclusively political means.

Grachev said a number of countries rendered military aid to Croats and Bosnian Moslems, while Russia strictly observed the international embargo on arms supplies. "If this one-sided game continues, the possibility cannot be excluded that Russia will also render aid, including to the Bosnian Serbs," he said. "However, the final decision on this issue rests with the government and the Security Council presided over by the president," he underlined.

Criticizes Bombing of Serb Residential Areas

LD1409162495 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 14 Sep 95

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Americans' reassuring statement on the limited nature of the operation in Bosnia seems to have had a very critical reception in Moscow. In particular, the Russian military, apparently on the basis of their intelligence, paint a completely different picture. Defense Minister Grachev made a very critical statement this evening.

[Begin Grachev recording] The power and water supply systems of inhabited areas have been put out of action. Air strikes have also started on industrial sites. Residential areas in the Serbian part of Sarajevo are subject to regular bombardment. Schools and post offices, clinics, kindergartens, and housing are unfortunately being destroyed as a result of the air raids. I have a genuine, trustworthy, complete list of those residential and secondary establishments, buildings, on which strikes have been made and the number of dead. If you look at the sum total then today the official number of those killed is around 800 people but the real number is approximately more than 2,000. [end recording]

Use of Troops in Bosnia 'Major Aggression'

LD1409174595 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 14 Sep 95

[Video report by D. Pugacheva from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who is also defense minister, met with the head of Russia's military department. As is known, Israel is on the list of countries with which military-technical cooperation is forbidden or restricted. For the time being this decision is in force, but talks in

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the military sphere between our countries are possible if the government or the president of Russia so decides. Pavel Grachev intends to visit Israel early in November. During his visit a memorandum on cooperation will be signed. The Russian minister noted that if the political situation in the Near East develops positively, it will be possible to develop cooperation between our countries in the military sphere, too.

After the meeting, replying to journalists' questions, Pavel Grachev touched on the hot issue of Bosnia:

[Begin Grachev recording] As a military man and knowing about the operational art of tactics, I predict that after these strikes, there could be extensive offensive operations against the Bosnian Serbs. One must not deceive oneself: if operations involving ground troops begin, this will in point of fact be a major act of aggression against the Bosnian Serbs. [end recording] [video shows Rabin shaking hands with Grachev; both having talks at table flanked by their staff; followed by Grachev speaking while seated at table]

Views Military Ties With Israel

LD1409215195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1606 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 14 Sep (ITAR-TASS) — The first specific step in military cooperation between Russia and Israel will be the signing of a memorandum of understanding in the military sphere between the two countries. It is planned that the document will be signed during the official visit to Israel by Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, from 1-5 November. He informed journalists of this today after his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

According to Pavel Grachev, "Russia's military cooperation with Israel is just beginning. The memorandum will define the main areas for our future cooperation," the minister stressed.

On military technical cooperation between the two countries, Pavel Grachev noted that the Russian Government resolution of 24 March 1994 listing the countries with which military technical cooperation is banned or restricted is still in force. Israel, he said, is one of those countries with which talks on these matters are held only on the basis of relevant Russian Government and presidential decisions.

Pavel Grachev stressed that "over the past year Israel has displayed a readiness to cooperate peacefully with neighboring countries, apart from its relationship with Syria." According to the minister, the political situation in the areas of the Near East makes it possible to hope that there will be a positive decision by the government and president on developing military technical cooperation with Israel. In Pavel Grachev's opinion, the Russian military-industrial complex is not against cooperating with Israel on modernizing its Soviet-made equipment.

Yeltsin Vetoes Laws on Dropping Bosnian Sanctions

LD1509061795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0546 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW Sep 15 (Itar-Tass) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin vetoed Thursday the laws on a unilateral Russian dropping of international sanctions against Serbia and on imposing sanctions against Croatia as they contradict international norms.

"Today the President of the Russian Federation sent a message to State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin in which he informs that he rejected the federal law "On cessation of the participation of the Russian Federation in implementing international sanctions imposed on the Union Republic of Yugoslavia" and the federal law "On measures of the Russian Federation to avert the genocide of the Serb people in the Republic of Croatia," Yeltsin's press service said.

"The President states that the rejected federal laws contain a number of contradictions to the norms of international law and the legislation of the Russian Federation", it added.

Earlier Yeltsin decreed to allow "humanitarian" trade with Serbia.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev today met U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, whose visit to Russia was commissioned by U.S. President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

"The Russian side stressed the need for an immediate stop to NATO strikes and an immediate cessation of fire in both the Sarajevo region and in entire Bosnia," the statement says.

The Foreign Ministry press and information department reported to President Boris Yeltsin the message sent for him through Talbott by President Bill Clinton.

The Foreign Ministry's statement says it was stressed at the meeting, with consideration for stances of the Russian and American presidents, that Russia and the U.S. should activate, together with other members of the five-nation Contact Group, their efforts to ensure an agreement which would lead the Bosnia situation out of the deadlock.

The efforts should give an impetus to the search for a comprehensive political settlement, the statement says.

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It was agreed at the talk that Russia and the U.S. will recruit all their influence with the hostile parties to lead them to a settlement.

Ivanov Sees 'Some Progress' in Achieving Cease-Fire

LD1409132595 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1300 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Igor Ivanov, first deputy Russian foreign minister, has said that some progress has been made in achieving a cease-fire in Bosnia and halting the bombing raids being carried out by the NATO countries.

This has become possible following intensive negotiations Ivanov and Richard Holbrooke, the U.S. President's special envoy, have had with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

The main points of the accords that have been reached are: the withdrawal of Serbian heavy weapons from areas around Sarajevo and a cease-fire there; the halting of NATO bombing; and the handing over of Muslim arms to UN control.

Serb Defeats in Central Bosnia Attributed to NATO

LD1409133995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1315 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Andrey Naryshkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ZAGREB, September 14 (Itar-Tass) — UN official sources have failed to confirm Croatian and Muslim reports about major victories won by Croats and Muslims on Bosnian front-lines. Nevertheless, recent developments show that the Croats and Muslims have dealt a crucial blow to the Bosnian Serbs and seized a number of cities in Central Bosnia.

Chief of Information Department of Croatia's Defence Ministry Josip Rajcic told Itar-Tass that Croatia had taken under control the towns of Jaice, Drvar, Sipovo, Kljuc, and that the town of Mrkonic- Grad was expected to surrender at any moment. The Croatian official did not deny the fact that the Croatian regular army had taken part in these operations. He pointed out that its presence in Bosnia was envisaged by the Splits declaration signed by Croatian President Tudjman and leader of the Bosnian Muslims Izetbegovic.

All the towns seized by the Croatian army belonged to the Serbs, except Jaice, where the Serbs accounted for 20 per cent of the population before the war. Demographical reference books published in Zagreb say that in 1991, the Serb population in Drvar exceeded 97 per cent, in Mrkonic-Grad — 77 per cent, Shipovo — 79 per cent, Kljuc — 49 per cent. In other words, at issue is an act of aggression made by the Croatian troops against Serb-held areas of Bosnia. The aggression was provoked to a considerable extent by NATO's regular bombardments. As a result, the Croats have joined over 2,000 square kilometers of land to their "operetta Herzeg- Bosnia." Simultaneously, the Muslims launched an offensive against another big settlement in the Central region, Srobobran, and took it under their control.

The offensive was accompanied by acts of "ethnic cleansing". The panic-stricken Serb population have abandoned their homes and many of them are encircled by the Croat and Muslim troops. It is difficult to assess the damage caused by another outbreak of ethnic violence, but the number of Serb refugees has exceeded scores of thousands people.

Opposition to Bosnia Military Operations Continues

LD1409145095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1412 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Valeriy Sevryukov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — "Russia believed and still believes that military operations will not lead to the settlement of the conflict in former Yugoslavia. NATO's continuing operations and increasing military operations carried out by the Moslems and Croats against the Bosnian Serbs cause a serious damage to the peace process," said Grigoriy Karasin, a spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry.

The diplomat pointed out that in terms of dimensions and the use of the Armed Forces, the activities of the North Atlantic Alliance in Bosnia turned out to be the largest military operation in Europe since the end of the Second World war.

The Russian side welcomes a statement made by the chairman of the UN Security Council demanding to end military operations, but believes this is not sufficient," the diplomat said. "We shall continue our efforts, including in the UN framework, for purposes of preventing military escalation in Bosnia," the spokesman said. "A draft resolution of the UN Security Council suggested by Russia remains "on the agenda," he added.

Yeltsin, Kozyrev Blamed for Lack of Foreign Policy

MK1509075995 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 37, 14-20 Sep 95 p 1

[Dialogue between Yuriy Davydov, professor of the U.S. and Canada Institute, and Yuriy Ustimenko: "Tactics in the Absence of a Strategy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ustimenko] The Russian president paid much attention to foreign policy last week;

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the Duma, too, devoted a special session to it. After a long period of neglect, international problems have once again come to the fore....

[Davydov] I think the explanation is simple — the powers that be are bracing for the elections. They need to earn political capital, to present themselves in the most favorable light to the voters. The president, as far as I can judge, is guided by domestic, not foreign policy considerations. For instance, currently the ultra-patriots are exerting pressure on Yeltsin, and Yeltsin, in turn, is pressing the Foreign Ministry. The harsh statements by the president were not meant to influence NATO or to settle the Yugoslav crisis, but were made in order to have an impact on the internal situation in Russia.

[Ustimenko] NATO is carrying out punitive operations against the Serbs and effectively helping their opponents....

[Davydov] Both the UN and NATO have lost their role as peacemakers, because a peacemaker's first and foremost objective is to be neutral, to promote an overall settlement, but by no means to become an ally of a party to the conflict. Another point that should be made in particular is that currently NATO would like to demonstrate that it is indispensable, that this is not a moribund organization, that it is still capable of something. This is happening at a time when NATO's prestige is plummeting and increasingly fierce criticism is being hurled at this bloc in the West. What do we need these thousands of aircraft, tanks, and missiles for? — is how the reasoning goes. So they need to show that they are ostensibly necessary. The West is pursuing its own interests in Yugoslavia, interests that are far from based on the desire to find a way out of the crisis. Russia, too, holds a lopsided stance.

[Ustimenko] But does Russia have a clear-cut foreign policy line corresponding to its national interests? Judging from Yeltsin's news conference, in which he upbraided the Foreign Ministry and Kozyrev in particular, the Kremlin is evidently dissatisfied with the situation that has come about at this stage.

[Davydov] Excuse me, but I am unable to fathom what is going on in the Kremlin. When the president criticizes the foreign minister, this can only be interpreted as self-criticism. Kozyrev has repeatedly emphasized that he has been carrying out presidential policy. Therefore, he does not and cannot have his own line or viewpoint.

[Ustimenko] What is this presidential policy line about?

[Davydov] This is probably the pivotal question. Initially we had a naive idea that since we embraced a system of values close to that of the West, our national interests would automatically become identical and there would be no problems in our relations with the West. But there cannot be such things in foreign policy. There are and there will be differences; they are inevitable.

[Ustimenko] Then confrontation, too, is inevitable?

[Davydov] Not necessarily. We ought to clearly define what we want in this world and what we ourselves can give. We must decide to what extent Russia can influence the development of events on the international scene given its actual capabilities and requirements. This has not happened, however.

[Ustimenko] Please explain.

[Davydov] Owing to a lack of professionalism in our policy we have lost our influence in the world; this lack of professionalism consists of the fact that the Foreign Ministry cannot calculate the consequences of the steps currently being taken. We ask for loans, knock on various organizations' doors, but those who ask for something carry no influence. I mean influence with those who give. And what can we give? Probably just a promise that splinters will not fly toward our creditors when we start breaking up. Or we have promised that we will never allow communism to be resurrected, but no one believes in that pledge any longer, and the situation in Russia shows that the country is moving more or less in this direction.

[Ustimenko] Still, the president has made a number of tough statements that testify to his intention to pursue a new line....

[Davydov] Yes, we can announce tomorrow that we are recreating the Warsaw Pact, but, excuse me, these words will ring hollow, because this cannot be done. Even out of Russia's immediate neighbors only Belarus and Tajikistan can presently be relied upon. And if we remember our former allies, Poland and the Czech Republic, for instance, they have supported NATO's bombing strikes on the Serbs and display no desire whatsoever to heed Moscow's calls.

[Ustimenko] One gains the impression that presently our friends and allies are not very plentiful.

[Davydov] Even given Russia's current weakness, Moscow should have determined who its friends and who its potential opponents are, accounted for the alignment of forces, strengthened the position of our allies, and obstructed the actions of those who are not very well disposed toward us. But this has not been done, and our foreign policy is a policy of passive reaction. Something happens in the world and we react to it, proceeding from considerations that often have nothing to do with foreign policy at all.

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U.S. Deciding How To Help Moscow 'Save Face' in Bosnia

MK1509133495 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 15 Sep 95 pp 1-2

[S.Sh.-signed report: "A Second-Rate Russia? Moscow Is Getting Out of the Balkan Morass on Orders From Washington"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] It is hard to be God. In vain did State Duma deputies, urgently dispatched by their colleagues to Yugoslavia, wait for NATO raids. The comrades were intent on stopping universal injustice by chaining themselves to Serb military facilities — they will not shoot at parliamentarians, after all! The bomb did not find its heroes. The perfidious West did not bully the Orthodox Christians yesterday. [passage omitted]

What is currently going on in Bosnia is, on the whole, little reminiscent of the black-and-white pictures painted with equal zeal by both the opposition and the Kremlin. The day before yesterday [13 September], for instance, "President" Karadzic said that NATO's massive raids had inflicted only "insignificant" losses on the civilian population. Can such statements be to Russia's liking given that its propaganda offensive is based precisely on publicizing "the genocide against the Serb people?" Independent reporters, who were for the first time allowed to visit the sites of particularly "brutal crimes," did not find even a trace of the innumerable bodies that were supposed to be lying there. The "material" destruction, though, is impressive.

Their tangible daily losses have not persuaded the Serbs to accept NATO's ultimatum thus far. Mladic is standing his ground: Tanks can be withdrawn from Sarajevo only in exchange for security guarantees. As Western high-level officials themselves admit, under this scenario the military aspect of the operation will no longer make any sense. Another two or three days of air strikes is the maximum. Options of how to get out of the situation are already being prepared behind the scenes. It cannot be helped; it is necessary to somehow meet the Serbs halfway so as to help them and the West itself — and Moscow, too — save face.

Washington is rather seriously concerned about how to help Moscow save face and lead it with minimum losses out of the ticklish situation in which it has found itself due to joint efforts. A number of options are under discussion. Under one of them, General Mladic, commander of the Serb army, agrees to comply with NATO/UN requirements and to withdraw most heavy weapons from Sarajevo. In this case the Serb population's calm should be ensured by a reinforced contingent of Russian peacekeepers. Naturally, Zagreb and Sarajevo are opposed to reinforcement by the Russians. It is up to the West, however, to get what it wants from its clients.

Whether the final option is as above or slightly different, everyone stands to benefit from it. Yeltsin will portray the inevitable halt to the operation as a result of his loud demarches and confirmation of the fact that Russia's opinion is still heeded. America and NATO, who are not ready for a decisive confrontation with Moscow, will also save face.

Yesterday, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott arrived in Russia to veil the "insignificant" differences between Moscow and Washington. Why "insignificant," you may ask indignantly? What about Yeltsin, the loud threats, the fuss all around the world?

What other assessment can there be if, literally one day later, the indestructible Minister Andrey Kozyrev, under whose feet the ground is nearly collapsing, was swift to "clarify" his boss's stance, after which mere words were left from the president's fearsome intentions. The words are noisy, but without a trace of content. An anti-NATO composed of CIS countries (Yeltsin at his news conference)? Oh, no, this will only be a last resort (Kozyrev). This is just one example.

The talks are being conducted in an atmosphere of the strictest secrecy. This is indirect proof of the fact that for all their hysterical nature, the anti-Western statements of the Yeltsin-Chernomyrdin-Kozyrev government are meant primarily for domestic consumption. If you want a scandal, why hide anything? [passage omitted]

More Details of Bushehr Nuclear Plant Contract

MM1409145595 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Boris Konovalov: "Bushehr Contract: Work Starts in a Month"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation Atomic Energy Ministry delegation, which returned from Iran Wednesday [13 September], announced that the final details of a bilateral contract on the construction of the first unit of a nuclear power station in Bushehr had been agreed. Work will start in a month.

Eduard Akopyan, head of the "Zarubezhatomenergostroy" All-Russia Production Association, stressed: The $800-million contract to construct the 1,000-megawatt first unit with a Russian pressurized-water reactor has officially come into force despite U.S. objections. Russia is beginning the layout and construction and in 55 months' time the first unit of the Bushehr Nuclear Power Station will be supplying electricity to Iran's

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energy system. The spent nuclear fuel will be taken to Russia for reprocessing. The vitrified, highly toxic reprocessed waste will be returned to Iran for permanent burial.

Evidently, after the first unit Russia will also start constructing the second unit of the Bushehr Nuclear Power Station, also with a capacity of 1,000 megawatts.

It was decided that the very first contract concluded by Iran and Russia for the construction of a nuclear power station with two 440- megawatt light-water units in the northern part of Iran had to be reviewed from the geographical standpoint. Due to the fact that the northern region of Iran is prone to earthquakes, the sides agreed that it was advisable to locate these two units on the site of the Bushehr Nuclear Power Station. So Bushehr, a port on the Persian Gulf, will be Iran's atomic capital.

Official: No Secret Nuclear Deals

LD1509100295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0913 GMT 15 Sep 95

[By Veronika Romanenkova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, September 15 (Itar-Tass) — "There are no secret nuclear agreements or contracts between Russia and Iran, nor have there ever been such agreements. The Russian Ministry for the Atomic Energy is not conducting any secret negotiations with Iran or planning to hold such talks," Head of the Public Relations Department of the Russian Ministry for the Atomic Energy Georgiy Kaurov told Itar-Tass today. He made this statement in reply to the reports that had appeared in several foreign and Russian newspapers that there were allegedly some sort of "secret agreements" between Russia and Iran on cooperation in the "peaceful" and "military" uses of atomic energy.

Kaurov recalled that there were now two intergovernmental agreements between Russia and Iran — on cooperation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy and on the construction of an atomic power plant in Iran. The Russian Ministry for Atomic Energy and the Iranian Atomic Energy Organisation had signed a contract back in 1993 on the construction at Bushehr of two atomic power-generating units, fitted out with VVER-440 light-water reactors with a capacity of 440 megawatt each. However, that contract did not come into force, because the Iranian side requested a postponement of the fixed time limits. It was planned that Russia would first complete there the construction of the generating unit, started by the German "Siemens" firm at the end of the seventies.

A contract on these jobs was signed in January 1995. Its cost was estimated at approximately 800 million U.S. dollars. Construction work is to be started already in October. The "Bushehr-1" unit, equipped with a Russian VVER-1000 light-water reactor with a capacity of 1,000 megawatts, is expected to be commissioned within 55 months from now.

Since the problem of the "Bushehr'1" unit has already been decided, the Russian side is ready to begin construction work on the two other units — "Bushehr-2" and "Bushehr-3". The Iranian side has also stated that it is now expedient to reactivate the 1993 contract. Hence, as a result of all this, a 3-unit atomic power plant is to begin power generation at Bushehr within a few years from now.

Karasin on 'Strange' French Claims of Military Threat

LD1409182395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1656 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 14 (Interfax) — French claims concerning an alleged Russian military threat "are strange to say the least", Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told a Moscow briefing Thursday.

He said France is trying to justify its determination to strengthen and modernize its nuclear arsenal "with talk about uncertainty concerning developments in the former USSR, especially Russia, where the French side has discerned the threat of the seizure of power by some extremists".

According to Karasin, Moscow welcomes France's intentions to promote the formation of a Grand Europe without dividing lines.

The diplomat stressed that in the traditional spirit of cooperation with Paris tested by time Russia wants to cooperate most seriously with the purpose of strengthening security and stability in Europe.

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Political Issues

Edict on Improved Work With State Service Cadres

MM1509084995 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Sep 95 p 4

[Edict No. 900 of the Russian Federation president "On Top Priority Measures To Improve Work With Cadres in the State Service System and the Implementation of the Federal Law 'On the Fundamentals of the Russian Federation State Service,'" signed by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and dated 6 September; followed by commentary by Andrey Przhezdomskiy, deputy chief of the Russian Federation president's Federal State Service Administration]

[FBIS Translated Text] With a view to enhancing the effectiveness of the functioning of the Russian Federation state service, I decree:

1. The appended plan for top-priority measures to improve work with cadres in the state service system and the implementation of the Federal Law "On the Fundamentals of the Russian Federation State Service" is ratified. (Footnote) (Not published)

2. The Russian Federation President's State-Legal Administration is to introduce within two months proposals on bringing the Russian Federation president's normative legal acts into line with the Federal Law "On the Fundamentals of Russian Federation State Service."

3. The Council for Cadre Policy Under the Russian Federation President is instructed to present within one month proposals on the formation of a Council for Questions of State Service Under the Russian Federation President.

[signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

[dated] Moscow, the Kremlin, 6 September 1995

[Begin Przhezdomskiy commentary] The purpose of the plan ratified by President Boris Yeltsin is to implement as quickly as possible the Law "On the Fundamentals of the Russian Federation State Service." The president pointed out its failings when he addressed the Russian Academy for State Service 6 September: lack of professionalism, lack of control, and corruption. One of the reasons for these shortcomings is the legal vacuum in which the official apparatus is functioning. At the moment there is only the aforementioned law, a kind of blueprint for the future state service edifice. But basic documents must be added to it which could serve as the foundation for this edifice. For instance, the federal register of state officials is currently based on the former statute on the state service, which is no longer valid. There are no qualification requirements for the posts. And that too is a starting document. Running on ahead, I would say that we already have a certain amount of groundwork on this subject, and it is in the pipeline.

The plan ratified by the president is also intended to implement the fundamental law. Practically every one of its provisions is a preparation for the relevant legal act.

First of all, a system of running the state service, headed by a fundamentally new organ — the Council for State Service Questions Under the Russian Federation President — is being drawn up. Second, a whole package of legal and organizational acts will be prepared, the main one of them being qualifications requirements for posts in the federal state service. On this basis, competitions will subsequently be held for vacant posts, as well as certification, qualifying examinations, and so on. In a word, clear qualification descriptions will be needed for every post, like in previous times. We are starting, if not from zero, then from a very low level, and it will not be possible to implement the law quickly. But we will try to do our best.

I must also mention the list of social measures also included in the plan. Thus, edicts of the president on pay, types of incentives, and measures to protect state employees and their families against violence, threats, and other illegal actions will be prepared this year. The elaborators of the law on the fundamentals of state service rightly assumed that the latter can hardly compete with commercial structures as regards remuneration. But instead of enormous earnings, the state gives its employees extra social concessions and stability which will save them worrying about the future of their families.

Interior Minister Launches Fight Against Corruption

LD1409194295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1657 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Vladimir Zuikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TYUMEN, September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov has declared that the fight against corruption in power structures, Interior departments and ensuring public security of Russian citizens are the three tasks of paramount importance he has set both for himself and the Interior ministry.

Kulikov arrived in Tyumen in the last leg of his working visit to Siberian cities.

The minister's harsh statement was motivated by strong reasons. Several days ago a military commissar, colonel Protsenko, was caught red-handed in the city of Tobolsk

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when he was accepting a bribe worth five million roubles. Next on a list of local bribe-takers is the chairman of the Tobolsk city committee for defence of consumers' rights. He is followed by acting chief of the city Fire-Fighting department, a senior officer of the city criminal police and others. Incidentally, the Interior minister noted that the criminal situation in the Tobolsk region was similar to the criminal situation in other Russian regions.

Kulikov declared that it was necessary to carry out a serious reform of the Interior Ministry in order to curb crime rates without increasing the number of policemen. Kulikov compared the performance of an investigation apparatus with a "waste-paper basket", adding that an operational department was performing the role of a mute actor and that the potential of the Interior troops was practically unused.

The minister declared that he intends to transfer Interior departments to a military status in part concerning management and discipline.

Luzhkov Vows Never To Betray Yeltsin

LD1309184895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1756 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 13 (INTERFAX) — Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov told a news conference in Moscow Wednesday that he had never failed and will never fail and betray the president. He added he had never had any disputes or grudge with Boris Yeltsin.

Luzhkov said the tensions with some of Yeltsin's aides had been eased thanks to the president's televised interview. Yeltsin had highly praised Luzhkov's performance as mayor of Moscow on the ORT channel several months ago.

Commenting on the future mayoral elections, Luzhkov confirmed his intention to run for this office again. He said he had not yet decided on his deputy, but was considering "two rather interesting options" at the moment.

Luzhkov said the elections of Moscow mayor should be held simultaneously with those of Russia's president, expected next June. This will help to raise voter turnout, he added.

Continued Reportage on Upcoming Duma Elections

Filatov on Kremlin's Election Stance

LD1409140795 Moscow NTV in Russian 2000 GMT 13 Sep 95

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Sergey Filatov, head of the president's administration, comments for our program on the Kremlin's position on the pre-election situation.

[Begin Filatov recording] [Video shows Filatov sat at an office desk] We expect that after registration, approximately only half the parties and unions will be able to get the written votes required to progress to, and enter the elections. So probably no one will have a majority, and I think that 20 percent will be the maximum number of votes for anyone. Many will fail, and not receive 5 percent, so there will probably be roughly the same number of factions as in this State Duma.

The situation today is more dangerous for democratic forces, and even not so much democratic, but for those who support reform and will continue reform, even with a collective aspect. [sentence as heard] So a coalition of the forces elected to the deputies' corps will determine everything, and here of course, deputies from the single-mandate constituencies will constitute the more significant force. So it is very difficult to make predictions. There are different predictions — some which say, for example, that opposition forces could get something in the region of 50 percent or more votes, and it would be particularly difficult if they managed to unite in a coalition. But I do not think this will happen. It is difficult, and I think unnecessary, to make further predictions, because as we know from the last elections, the elections were decided in practically the last two weeks, if not the last. So the emotional effect which there may be on people may determine, unfortunately, the fate of the State Duma.

So I think the most important thing is not to allow society to be brought into such a scandalous state in the election campaign. Unfortunately, Ilyukhin's speech yesterday illustrates a tendency that such intentions do exist. The speech practically submitted people to criminal examination because facts were presented that violate the ethics of investigation. We know that there are secret investigations, and whatever took place, whoever spoke, gives no reason to make this material public. I think it was made public with the very aim of beginning this campaign of hysteria in society, a campaign to create some kind of abnormal state which could have the appropriate result.

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So I think that all healthy forces in society have to realize that the whole election campaign should be held in a constructive, businesslike atmosphere, however difficult that might be. First — and Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] said this — as much information as possible should be given, and work should be carried out more openly, especially in this period. In this regard we have drawn up several programs to guide our actions.

It is difficult for us to choose a party, one we could go to the elections with; they are not the sort of elections where it is possible to fix and concentrate one's attention on supporting one party. Of course, there must be support — and I say this not for the first time — not just for democratic forces, but forces which have a reform position, because it is very important to maintain as a whole the structure of reform of the Russian Federation. It is very important not to allow those forces to come to power which intend — and who say this openly — to change the Constitution and change the structure of power, and generally to change radically everything that has been planned and implemented over these years with so much effort. [end recording]

Baltin Said To Run For 'Motherland' Bloc

LD1509112795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1032 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 15 (INTERFAX) — The Black Sea Fleet commander, Admiral Baltin, will run for the State Duma on the federal list of the "For Motherland" electoral bloc. This statement was made in an exclusive interview with INTERFAX on Friday by the leader of the bloc and of the New Russia movement, former Deputy Russian Prime Minister and chairman of the State Property Committee Vladimir Polevanov.

According to him, Baltin features fourth on the party's list. The list is topped by Polevanov, the commander of the Russian Airborne Troops Yevgeniy Podkolzin and well-known goalie Vladislav Tretyak.

Polevanov told INTERFAX that Baltin was prompted to take part in the election race "by the need for the earliest solution of the Black Sea Fleet problem and of the fate of the Russian city Sevastopol." These problems, as well as the problems of the army and of Crimea, are among the main ones in the bloc's election platform, said Polevanov.

He said that if the Russian government deemed it necessary to apply to "any international court," it would "recognize Sevastopol as a Russian city."

The "For Motherland" bloc, which apart from the new Russia movement includes the movement of war veterans in Afghanistan, veterans of the law-enforcement bodies and other organizations, stands for dual subordination of the Crimea to Ukraine and Russia, said Polevanov.

He also said that the bloc also includes the People's Republican Party of the Crimea, which advocates the interests of the Russian-speakers in the Crimea.

Baltin Joining Political Blocs Denied

LD1509110495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1054 GMT 15 Sep 95

[By Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW September 15 (ITAR-TASS) — Commander of the Black Sea fleet Admiral Eduard Baltin is not a member of any political bloc or organisation. Reports of some mass media organs, which say that the fleet commander joined several electoral blocs, created before the elections to the State Duma, are not true, Captain Andrey Grachev, head of the press service of the Black Sea fleet, told TASS today.

Rossel Finds No Campaign To Cooperate With

LD1409161195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEKATERINBURG, Sept 14 (INTERFAX-EURASIA) — Contacts between Governor of the Sverdlovsk Region Eduard Rossel and leader of the Congress of Russian Communities Yuriy Skokov on cooperation in the election campaign have not produced results, Rossel's Press Secretary Aleksandr Levin told INTERFAX-EURASIA.

Rossel and Skokov met in Yekaterinburg Wednesday to discuss, among other things, cooperation between the Congress of Russian Communities and the Rossel-led Reformation of Fatherland movement in supporting candidates in single-mandate districts.

Reports were circulated a few days ago about contacts between Rossel and Sergey Shakhray, which were unsuccessful, too.

Rossel is to visit St. Petersburg Thursday to meet with the leaders of Russia's north-western regions.

Levin said that Rossel attaches great importance to his participation in a regional conference of the Reformation of St. Petersburg movement.

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'My Fatherland:' Rybkin Bloc in for Losses

MK1409125595 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 14 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Gleb Cherkasov: "'My Fatherland' Is Dissatisfied With 'Political Sluggishness' of 'Ivan Rybkin's Bloc.' Stanislav Assekritov Does Not Rule Out That the Duma Chairman Will Sustain More Losses"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Stanislav Assekritov, a leader of the "My Fatherland" association, which abandoned "Ivan Rybkin's Bloc" a few days ago, told your SEGODNYA correspondent that the Coordination Council of "My Fatherland" made the decision on a political separation from the State Duma chairman after it became evident that "the head of the electoral bloc never turned into a bloc leader." According to Mr. Assekritov, Mr. Rybkin "has done well as State Duma speaker", but he failed to become a "people's tribune."

The "My Fatherland" leader noted that "Ivan Rybkin's Bloc" failed to assume a clear-cut center-left stance. Having expressed his regret that Mr. Rybkin had not listened to "My Fatherland's" recommendations, Stanislav Assekritov said that "Ivan Rybkin's Bloc," in fact, has followed the lead of the "Russia Is Our Home" movement.

According to Mr. Assekritov, "My Fatherland" members were also displeased with the fact that the bloc leader and his entourage "were juggling the names on the slate" until the very last moment. Stanislav Assekritov noted that Mr. Rybkin's behavior was viewed with disfavor by other members of the bloc and did not rule out that Ivan Rybkin would sustain more losses.

Mr. Assekritov believes that after "My Fatherland's" departure the chances of success for "Ivan Rybkin's Bloc" in the election have been cut in half. This notwithstanding, he does not rule out that Mr. Rybkin's remaining supporters will manage to overcome the 5-percent barrier. "My Fatherland" will participate in the election independently. At the same time, Stanislav Assekritov said that the association is ready for negotiations with other center-left parties and movements.

Rybkin Announces Center-Left Bloc's List

LD1409214295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1656 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, September 14 (INTERFAX) — The federal list of the center left bloc is topped by its leader, State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin, chairman of League of Realists Yuriy Petrov and State Duma Deputy Chairman Artur Chilingarov.

Rybkin said at a news conference that this decision was made unanimously at the Thursday conference of his electoral bloc.

The central part of the federal list, 12 names, also includes Pavel Borodin, Russian president's chancellor, and Vyacheslav Nikonov and Aleksandra Ochirova, MPs.

According to Rybkin, very prominent people wanted to join the list "but we thought that our list is self-sufficient."

He said that the bloc's economic program will be discussed and approved by its conference on September 30.

Rybkin declined to comment on the reasons for the My Motherland movement leaving the bloc.

He added that he rejected accusations that he is soft and spineless.

Rybkin explained that Russia has had enough of toughness of the kind demonstrated at last Saturday's State Duma session when a melee broke out which is now under criminal investigation. He said he was not that kind of man and preferred to remain himself.

His bloc became only stronger when three groups left it, Rybkin argued.

Rybkin Bloc 'Calm' After Mishin Withdraws

LD1409122095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1048 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 13 (INTERFAX) — Although the movement My Homeland, led by Vladimir Mishin, has bid farewell to Ivan Rybkin's alliance, bloc leaders remain calm, Yuriy Petrov, first deputy leader of the alliance said in an interview with INTERFAX on Wednesday. Petrov, who also leads the Realists Union, predicts insignificant political losses for the bloc dismissing My Homeland's criticism of Rybkin as unfair, "one should be able to tell between a man, immersed solely in politics and a leader, burdened with organizational work in parliament."

Petrov reported that at Wednesday's meeting between Homeland's leaders and members of the Bloc's Coordinating Committee, requested by Homeland, the sides discussed the situation and agreed that "their cooperation can be resumed in the future since their goals and tasks" coincide.

Petrov believes the breakaway movement will barely manage to launch a proper election campaign as it has too little time. It will also not get over the five percent barrier at the State Duma elections.

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Favorites for the vacancies in the bloc's federal list are, in his view, Chairman of the Afghan War Invalids Fund, Alexander Bochirov, State Duma deputy Nikolay Stolyarov, and other bloc members.

Speaking about a new name for the alliance, Petrov noted that it would most likely be registered as Ivan Rybkin's bloc.

Gromov Bloc Not Seeking Political Alliance

LD1409183495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1738 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 14 (INTERFAX) — The My Motherland electoral bloc which recently left Speaker Ivan Rybkin's alliance will not enter any political alliance, Colonel General Boris Gromov, the leader of the bloc, told INTERFAX Thursday.

Gromov said that this decision was taken unanimously by the bloc's coordinating council. One of the reasons, Gromov said, was Rybkin's inaction and his desire to keep on the sideline.

Gromov explained that Rybkin was good at chairing the lower house of parliament but in the electoral campaign he should have acted as the leader rather than a manager who delegates his functions to his underlings.

Gromov explained that My Motherland is holding talks with numerous political groups about their incorporation in the electoral bloc. According to Gromov, My Motherland has branches in 80% of Russian internal republics and regions.

My Motherland will cooperate with center left MPs in the new parliament.

Duma-96 Approves Federal Election List

LD1309192895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 13 (INTERFAX) — A congress of the Duma-96 election bloc approved its federal election list in Moscow Wednesday.

The movement had been founded on March 24, 1995. According to its founders, its branches are located in 56 regions of Russia.

A member of the congress presidium, Mikhail Kreimer, said all centrist forces were the movement's potential allies.

The rector of the Higher Commercial School under the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry, Vladimir Burenin, director general of the Sukhoy Design Bureau, Mikhail Simonov, and former defense minister Georgiy Kondratyev top the movement's election list.

Burenin told journalists after the congress that the Russian government's strict monetary policy could drive the national economy into serious trouble. Selective support of manufacturers is needed now, he added.

General Kondratyev To Run for Duma

LD1409155195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NAKHABINO (Moscow region), Sept 14 (INTERFAX) — Former Deputy Defense Minister General-Colonel Georgiy Kondratyev says he plans to handle issues related to military reform in a new State Duma.

"I am going to help implement an army reform if I become a member of parliament," he told reporters during the opening of a new chapel at Nakhabino on Thursday.

Our correspondent reports the chapel built at the cost of 400 million rubles is dedicated to the memory of Russian soldiers killed in Chechnya. Donations came from Russian businessmen, the local administration and Kondratyev himself.

The general who was dismissed by President Boris Yeltsin on February 9 comes third on the electoral list of the Duma-96 alliance.

More on Members' Aims, Centrist Stance

LD1409183395 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] The third congress of the public association of the sociopolitical movement Duma-96 has been held in Moscow. How does this association differ from others? Our correspondent Andrey Kudenko put this question to Mikhail Kreymer, member of the movement's presidium, a member of the international academy of information technology.

[Begin Kreymer recording] We are not instructed by the ruling apparatus. We found our own views, our vision of the situation in Russia, pre-election promises and slogans precisely not those vitally important standpoints, which are based on the expectations and anguish of the Russian people. We occupy a strict centrist position. We reject everything that is extremely right-wing and extremely left-wing. We are prepared to cooperate with people in centrist positions in a constructive and pragmatic manner and, expressing the interests of our electorate, we will fight for seats in the Duma just to expressly represent the interests of specific voters. [end recording]

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[Kudenko] From what social stratum do you draw your strength? I asked Yevgeniy Gusarov this question, another member of the Duma-96 presidium.

[Begin recording] [Gusarov] First and foremost this is a stratum of the public, a very wide stratum of property owners. Unfortunately, a great deal has been said about this stratum, but no one has been able to create that stratum for all that. Proceeding from the general laws that exist in America and Europe, in India and China, three main factors are needed to create the property owner. This law is applicable everywhere: Land, a place for people, and capital.

To improve the Russian state — this is from the theses of our movement — to create objective conditions for improving the standard of living, the quality of people's life, we primarily put forward four main conditions. These are freedom of the individual, giving priority to the interests of goods-producers in all acts of state and public regulation, social harmony and fairness in society, excluding force in solving conflicts, especially on the territory of the Russian Federation.

We are still all recalling that huge Russian sore of Chechnya. That is the anguish and tragedy of the state, and naturally toleration in government, that there should be alternative variants in evolution and in all changes.

[Kudenko] A list of candidates to stand for deputies was confirmed at the congress. Whom could you name among the people who you would trust to represent you.

[Gusarov] First of all, Vladimir Arsentiyevich Burenin, a member of our movement's presidium. He was unanimously elected chairman by the congress. Besides, he is the head of the higher economic and commercial school of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations. Then there is Colonel General Grigoriy Georgiyevich Kondratyev, former deputy minister of defense, who fought in the Afghanistan war, who has seen enough of the good and the bad on his life's path; Simonov, who has learned to understand and appreciate life. He is the director general and chief designer of the Sukhoy design bureau, whose Su aircraft need no advertisement.

These are some of the people who head our group of 12 people. [end recording]

Social Democrats To Contest Elections

LD1409184895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1738 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 14 (INTERFAX) — Social Democratic organizations' intention to run for the State Duma in an independent bloc, "not dissolved in other political forces," is an important step in the development of the Russian Social Democratic movement, Vasiliy Lipitskiy, one of the Social Democrats bloc leaders and head of the Social Democratic Union, told a news conference in Moscow Thursday.

He said that the bloc intends to form its own faction in the future Duma because "Social Democrats must have their own instrument for expressing their opinion and for defending the interests of their voters."

Gavriil Popov, former Moscow mayor and head of the Russian Democratic Reforms Movement (RDRM), Vasiliy Lipitskiy and Oleg Bogomolov, member of the Russian Academy of Sciences and of the Democratic Party of Russia Duma faction, are at the top of the Social Democrats bloc list of candidates for the State Duma.

According to Popov, although St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak, another RDRM leader, will not take part in the parliamentary elections, he promised to support the Social Democrats bloc.

Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, former Soviet defense minister, earlier said to be on the bloc's list, will not run for the Duma either, preferring to remain the Rosvooruzheniye company head, said Popov.

The Social Democrats refused to name their potential allies at the elections. According to Lipitskiy, "there can be no allies at the elections, there can only be rivals," while Popov believes that it is impossible to have compromise candidates with only one round of elections.

Lebed on 'Russian Communities' Strategy

MK1409060895 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 61, 10-17 Sep 95 p 6

[Interview with Aleksandr Lebed by Sergey Yastrebov; place and date not given: "The Generals Storm the Duma"]]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yastrebov] Since you joined the Congress of Russian Communities [KRO], you have begun to be called a "wedding-party general [svadebnyy general]." Does this not offend you?

[Lebed] I was called by representatives of various parties and movements. And wherever I would have ended up, there would be people who would treat me like a wedding-party general or the trump card of a particular "home." This does not worry me, nor does it worry Skokov.

[Yastrebov] Are there no disagreements between you on other issues?

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[Lebed] They say that Lebed has quarreled with the "iron lady" Vartazarova and fallen out with Yuriy Skokov over something. Some people indulge in wishful thinking. We have even, partnership relations and I am not going to comment on what does not exist.

[Yastrebov] Yet, at one meeting with journalists, Skokov was not very flattering about you, noting that you could at best make a defense minister, but no way a president.

[Lebed] This is just another "setup." In late June, Skokov and I were invited to a meeting of central newspaper editors. There was a gentlemen's agreement that everything said there would not be printed. We spoke freely and informally, and somebody came up with the idea that was then ascribed to Skokov. After that Skokov "swore on the Koran" that there would be no more such meetings.

[Yastrebov] Yet the media published yet another statement by Skokov: "If need be, I am ready to sit behind Lebed's back and draw reconnaissance maps."

[Lebed] He did not say that. It was made up. There is an agreement: There is and there will be no talk of presidential elections before the parliamentary ones. If the KRO emerges as a force in its own right before 1 January 1996, we can then start thinking about the presidency. But if we fail to clear the 5-percent barrier, what is there to talk about?

[Yastrebov] In the KRO election association Dmitriy Rogozin has been somewhat sidelined, although the congress is his creation. Does it not seem to you that Skokov has seized all power?

[Lebed] That was the idea. Rogozin voluntarily agreed to it. Skokov has both experience and professionalism. He knows the entire political "kitchen."

[Yastrebov] Is there no fear in the KRO that Lebed, having scored his points, will play his own game?

[Lebed] I repeat: A whole team is playing. There can be no doubts about this.

[Yastrebov] Will you contest a single-seat constituency?

[Lebed] I will. The Tula constituency. The list is just a list. But how do people relate to me? I must look into their eyes, hear them talk....

[Yastrebov] The national idea is also being exploited by Russian National Unity, the Black Hundred, the Union of Officers, and the Russian National Sobor [Council]. Why does the KRO not join them?

[Lebed] We only rely on our own resources, without blowing up the ethnic question. We are Russian people: Jews, Kalmyks, Bashkirs, and Chechens. Russia is our common home. The KRO supported efforts to create the Union of Peoples. All other movements stress the greatness of the Russian nation. Chechnya has revealed a great deal with respect to the great-nation idea. Nevzorov makes a lot of noise to the effect that the Russian lion has roared at the Caucasian jackals. The question is, did it roar or did it mew?

[Yastrebov] Have preliminary accords between the KRO and Patriarch of All Russia Aleksiy II been confirmed?

[Lebed] The patriarch is simply doomed to be a politician — such are the times.... Let us not touch on this question, but rather talk about the fact that a theology professor has been included in the KRO list in Moscow Oblast.

[Yastrebov] Many politicians in front of the cameras stress their proximity to religion, go to churches. Are your a believer?

[Lebed] No. I do not go to church. I am a non-believer. Everybody is born on his own and dies on his own. Everybody comes to God on his own, too. I have not come to God, but maybe I will.

[Yastrebov] There is a belief that should the military come "to power" a dictatorship is inevitable....

[Lebed] The army lives by laws that are different from those in the state. A state cannot be built according to army laws: It simply won't work. For the state not to become a barracks, it is vital for regulations to be strictly observed in the army. As far as I am concerned, I do not intend to turn the state into a barracks.

[Yastrebov] What do you think about a situation where military people actively engage in politics? For example, Generals Podkolzin, Rokhlin....

[Lebed] I think very highly of General Rokhlin — because of his courage, and because he refused to accept the Hero of Russia Medal which they sought to force on him for the civil war in Chechnya. There are no state honors in civil wars. However, as for politics, the double standard has remained here. Lebed has gone into politics, and so let us expel him from the army. General Rokhlin is third on the "Our Home" list, but Grachev is turning a blind eye to this. He has found his bearings.

Or another example. There are two generals called Rodionov in the army. One is Colonel General Igor Nikolayevich, rector of the General Staff Academy, former commander of the Transcaucasus Military District, dismissed for political reasons after the 1989 events in Tbilisi. He is an utmost professional, a man of honor. And there is also Yuriy Nikolayevich Rodionov, who

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rose from colonel to colonel-general atop the 1991 democratic wave, within just three months. And now he runs on the North Caucasus Military District list from the army. Moreover, he takes advantage of the identity in name and rank, passing himself off as chief of the General Staff Academy, the hero of Tbilisi....

[Yastrebov] Grachev encourages this?

[Lebed] He does! This year district commanders, senior generals, were summoned and Grachev said unobtrusively: I have never called on you to run for the Duma, but now I shall judge of your service and performance by the number of deputies from the Armed Forces. I have a list of 50 people who are to get into the Duma from the army. Podkolzin and Polevanov have already created the "For the Motherland" bloc. Now Podkolzin has ordered that Lebed be kept away from the inauguration of a monument to servicemen of the 45th Special Purpose Paratroopers Regiment killed in Chechnya. He followed Grachev's directives. In Yekaterinburg, I was not allowed into the House of Officers for a meeting with the public. The entire district headquarters, including the commander, went for "field target practice" so as not to compromise themselves by meeting with Lebed.

[Yastrebov] Do you admit that during the election campaign some documents compromising you could emerge?

[Lebed] I know firmly and I am sure that there is no compromising material against me. I am not a traitor. I am an army officer. But it can be fabricated.

NDR Will Pay for Information on Opposition

MM1409133395 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by EKSPRESS-KHRONIKA's Emmanuil Mendelevich: "From 'Government Party' to Party Power"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When Leonard Vid, executive leader of the Russia Is Our Home (NDR) movement, recently appeared on the television program Podrobnosti [Details], he spent a long time talking about the difficult financial situation in which the movement finds itself. Voters will, clearly, want these words to be checked out. I set out to do so in Orel.

A few days ago Dmitriy Krayukhin, secretary of the Orel branch of the Republican Party, was telephoned by Boris Polukhin, a member of the NDR National Information Agency staff. The conversation was brief: "You used to provide information about Russia's Choice, didn't you? I would like to propose that you supply information for the NDR." You can imagine the amazement of the man, who had long since lost the illusions of 1993. But his caller went on: "We are interested in all the political events and changes in parties and movements, particularly those in the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia and the Communist Party of the Russian Federation."

The most interesting thing is that the NDR promises to pay $100 per month — free, moreover, as Polukhin stressed, of taxes — for this. Given the number of regions in Russia, there would have to be at least 100 such informants, with, consequently, $10,000 per month being spent solely on information gathering. That is the state of the NDR's finances. But the "government party's" ethics are more interesting. They shamelessly exploit their competitors' networks, relying on turncoats here: How could the NDR have learned about Krayukhin other than from former Russia's Choice members?

Schedules for the selection of delegates for the NDR congress and the list of prospective deputies are being "sent down" to the Orel Oblast Administration through government channels. And the administration's workers are forced to get on with this. We have, after all, already experienced the fusion of government and party! But the whole problem here is that the "government party" does not engage in any other kind of activity. And it is by tradition bound to show contempt for people.

CPRF Receives 100,000 Support Signatures

MM1409144795 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Sep 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Half-Way Stage Reached in One Week"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have been informed by Leonid Ivanchenko, official representative of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] Electoral Association for Rostov Oblast, that 16,442 signatures in support of Communists have been collected in one week.

During the same period 14,000 signatures were gathered in Bryansk Oblast; 7,000 in Dagestan; 5,000 each in Vladimir and Kursk Oblasts; and around 6,000 in the Maritime Kray.

According to the CPRF Central Committee's figures, as of 11 September a total of 100,000 Russians had signed up in support of Communists. The collection of signatures continues.

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Yabloko Wants More Democrats Elected to Duma

LD1409165795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1527 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — Yabloko movement would like Russia's Democratic Choice Party led by Yegor Gaydar to earn more than five per cent of the poll in the elections and to be represented in the State Duma, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, the leader of Yabloko movement, told a news conference on Thursday. "Although Russia's Democratic Choice is our opponent, we want it to be represented in the Duma," Yavlinskiy said. It would not be good if there were no democratic factions in the Duma aside from Yabloko, he said. "I cannot imagine what would we be doing there in such a case," Yavlinskiy said. Candidatures have been agreed upon with Russia's Democratic Choice in almost all first-past-the-pole districts, Yavlinskiy said.

Yavlinskiy's news conference was a typical instance of canvassing. He set out the main provisions of the economic and political programme of Yabloko movement, dwelling particularly on the fact that the movement banks on the middle class and is not going to deprive anyone of anything. Quite the contrary, it is bent on rewarding those who have not profited by reform.

Yabloko favours speeding up the economic reform and consolidation of property relations. Asked about his attitude to privatisation results, Yavlinskiy said that they are not to be subjected to administrative revision and that this is an open-ended process as regards the economy.

Asked about his atittude to the events in former Yugoslavia, Yavlinskiy said Yabloko was the only faction which though that there is no need to hold an extraordinary meeting of the Duma to discuss the situation in the Balkans. He said Russia is unable to influence Serbs and its role in settling the conflict is zero. On the whole, Russia's moral possibilities of influencing the Balkan conflict are very limited after what has happened in Chechnya. But NATO's actions are also pointless and will not lead to positive results, Yavlinskiy believes. He said that bombings of Bosnia will shortly stop as they are senseless and as differences will arise within NATO.

'Honest Russia' Chooses Candidates, Policies

MM1409105295 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Lyubov Volodina: "Fundamental Ideas — Federalism and Honesty"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Federal Democratic Movement [FDD] (the successor to the Joint Committee of Democratic Organizations of Russia — OKDOR) has announced the creation of the "For an Honest Russia" electoral association.

The FDD comprises more than 30 sociopolitical organizations and creative unions, including a number of business associations, the Union of Cossack Troops of Russia and Abroad, the "Servicemen for Democracy" movement, and writers', composers', and artists' organizations. The movement's political council includes such well-known figures from literature and the arts as Andrey Dementyev, Rimma Kazakova, Vladimir Dashkevich, and Leonid Zhukhovitskiy, the scientist Vil Mirzayanov, and General Oleg Kalugin.

Federalism is one of our movement's fundamental ideas, movement leader Professor Oleg Novikov, doctor of economic sciences, told your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent. We believe that every problem affecting people's lives and the well-being of the state must be resolved primarily not in rarefied official offices, from which many of the problems of life are invisible, but closer to the ordinary citizen — at settlement, town, rayon, or oblast level. Local authorities always have a better sense of the mood of their voters and it is easier to monitor their decisions. We intend to promote in every way the development of self-government at every level. Russia has splendid experience of zemstvo councils, which could be successfully used on our day too. We are therefore supporters of a strong state and are not ashamed of this. We are in favor of initiative at local level but against the disintegration of the country. Russia must not fall victim to separatism, irrespective of who issues destructive appeals. Our country includes territories one which various peoples have had various states. Every people has its own distinct culture. We therefore support the idea of creating social organizations expressing the interests of the inhabitants of large regions combining several components of the federation.

The "For an Honest Russia" electoral association advocates the most resolute measures to combat corruption and crime within the law, for which it proposes a radical reform of the police. Its economic program includes support for competition and market balance and tough sanctions against those exploiting a dominant position in

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the commodity market. Priorities include restructuring the economy, taming inflation, and cutting the budget deficit. Oleg Novikov believes in particular that there should be a new structure of state administration, a cut of two-thirds in expenditure on maintaining the apparatus at central and local level, and the development of free competition, which in conjunction with other actions will make it possible to cut by a minimum of two-thirds various expenditures from budgets at every level. "We advocate a tax system which would encourage economic growth and attract foreign investment rather than being a purely fiscal instrument filling the treasury at the cost of ruining producers."

While advocating a market economy, the "For an Honest Russia" association nevertheless considers that there should be a gentler transition to the market and real help for the disadvantaged. One of the main tasks is to broaden the social base of democracy and create a middle class.

The association conference approved the list of State Duma election candidates. The federal list is headed by Oleg Novikov, Oleg Kalugin, and Rimma Kazakova.

Media Issues

Journalists Urged To 'Oversee' Election Campaign

LD1409154595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1440 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Tamara Ivanova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — Chairman of the State Duma Committee for information policy and communication Mikhail Poltoranin told participants in the 5th congress of the Union of Journalists of Russia that the media must oversee the election campaign to prevent the election of "odious personalities and mafia" to the lower house of parliament.

Poltoranin said the conciliatory commission of the State Duma and the Federation Council, the two houses of Russia's bicameral parliament, had wound up work on the long-awaited bill on government support for the media and book publishing.

The document will be put to a roll-call vote in the Duma as soon as it meets in autumn for the journalists to have a clear idea of the deputies who are behind the procrastination with the promulgation of the law on economic support of the press.

According Poltoranin, the drafters of the law on economic support of city and district newspapers, which was approved by both houses of parliament, were much baffled by the wording of the presidential veto on that law. The President's only reference was to Part 3, Article 107 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, which returned that law to the State Duma for revision without any explanation.

Poltoranin criticised the draft tax code and the budget for 1996, and declared that his Committee would press for the re-allocation of the resources earmarked for the Russian Public Television (ORT) for the development of the economic basis of city and district newspapers.

Rules on Election Campaigning in Media Approved

MM1309145195 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Pelts: "We Will Be Canvassed Every Day, Strictly According to Schedule"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Electoral Commission has approved, in the main, the instruction on election campaigning on television and in the press.

Let us remind you that the draft instruction has already been submitted three times to the verdict of experts and the public. At first the Central Electoral Commission worked it out with legal specialists and then invited leaders of the mass media and journalists to discuss it. Only at the third attempt did the document come to fruition, as it were.

Such a punctilious attitude to the instruction can easily be explained: The Central Electoral Commission intends to organize the most important stage of the struggle for the electorate's votes according to strict, clear, unambiguously interpreted rules. Otherwise the Central Electoral Commission will inevitably be reprimanded, as happened in the last election campaign.

So, what is the chief point in the instruction? It guarantees equal access to the airwaves and to newspaper and magazine pages for all involved in the election race. Free airtime on the channels of all-Russia television and radio companies will start to be granted from 15 November through 15 December. The schedule — 30 minutes in the morning and 30 minutes after 1800 hours — will be drawn up by casting lots.

It is interesting that rich electoral blocs and associations will be able to buy additional campaigning. But the total extra time must not exceed the free airtime granted. In addition, all-Russia television and radio companies are obliged to make a public declaration of the size of the payment for the additional possibility of influencing the voters' minds and hearts.

In short, prepare yourselves, voters. From 15 November, morning and evening, every day. It is starting....

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Journalist's Union Discusses Economy, Elections

LD1409170495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1539 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Tamara Ivanova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — The extraordinary Congress of the Union of Journalists of Russia (UJR), which met in Moscow today, set up a Commission for economic adjustment of the market of the press.

The Committee headed by President of the Association of Publishers Yuriy Yakutin, who is also chief editor of the newspaper "EKONOMIKA I ZHIZN" (Economy and life), will represent the interests of the journalist community at all levels of power.

Delegates to the Congress adopted a declaration pointing to the extremely unfavourable situation of the Russian press and expressing the readiness of the journalist community to take most decisive steps up to nationwide actions if the powers-to-be remain indifferent to the vital interests of the media.

The congress adopted a resolution on the participation of journalists in the elections. In their appeal to the colleagues, delegates to the congress stressed the particular importance of undeviating compliance with the principles of journalist ethics during election campaign periods.

The Union rejected the idea of running in the elections as an independent movement or teaming up with one of the existing election alliances and decided to nominate its own candidates for seats in the Duma in one-seat constituencies.

The congress confirmed that all journalist property on the territory of Russia must belong to the Union of Journalists of Russia and empowered its chairman Vsevolod Bogdanov to hold negotiations on the issue with the Confederation of unions of journalists.

As is known, the UJR walked out of the Confederation during its 4th congress in April. Although the leaders of the two structures made efforts at reconciliation in between the two congresses, the 5th congress did not discuss the UJR's membership of the Confederation.

The idea of a single information space found its embodiment in the structure of the roundtable of the national unions of journalists of CIS member-countries which was formed last year and registered with the Interparliamentary Assembly. Its next meeting will be held on September 19.

The UJR Federative Council held a plenary meeting today to elect the secretariat of the Union and members of the Committee for the protection of the freedom of expression and the rights of journalists. The UJR founded a new structure — the Council of Professional Ethics.

Prizes and diplomas were presented in a ceremony at the congress to the winners of the all-Russia competition for the best journalist works devoted to the 50th anniversary of the Victory in World War II.

Insurance Fund for Journalists To Be Set Up

LD1409164495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1507 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Tamara Ivanova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian Cabinet today adopted a resolution on the creation of an insurance fund for journalists, Vice-Premier Vitaliy Ignatenko told the 5th Congress of the Union of Journalists of Russia here today.

He said the question about the fund had been raised by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on instruction from President Boris Yeltsin. Ignatenko said the first billion of roubles would be remitted to the fund soon.

Along with this, the Vice-Premier stressed that neither one billion roubles nor a more considerable amount of money would be able to resolve all the problems facing the Russian mass media. These problems require a "volley of fire and an entire range of documents," as well as efforts of all the departments in charge of media and concerted work of all branches of power.

Ignatenko stressed that the Government was not always able to make the life of the media easier because of overall economic instability in the country. He added that nonetheless, 40 billion roubles had already been allocated for the regional television broadcasters and ten billion roubles to support the Mayak radio station.

A federal programme has been drafted to support book publishing, which provides for the solution of an entire range of problems associated with paper-making and the structure of the publishing industry.

The Government has also drafted a package of documents to exempt publishing from a number of taxes, and the President is expected to sign soon a decree on television and radio broadcasting in Russia which will lay down the principles of preserving the single broadcasting space.

Ignatenko said the Government had not only proclaimed the principles of independence of the mass media but was implementing them in its specific measures. One

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example was the Government action with regard to attempts at stage managing court trials of NTV.

Still a number of incidents in Lyubertsy and Crimea, Elista and other regions of the country provide ground for discussing constraints on the rights of journalists and the media. The local officials who dare interfere with the affairs of the press and banish some publishers unlawfully must hear the voice of the country's power structures, Ignatenko said.

Military, Nuclear, & Space Issues

Power Supply Cut To Plesetsk Missile Test Range

LD1509104895 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 15 Sep 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just been given a statement, brought in to our studio, from the press center of the Russian Strategic Missile Troops, to the effect that electricity supplies to the Plesetsk state testing range of the missile troops were cut off at 1000 hours today.

All facilities belonging to the strategic missile troops and to the military space forces have been brought to a standstill.

Navy Acquires Antisubmarine Ship for Northern Fleet

LD1409102295 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0500 GMT 14 Sep 95

[Video report by Stanislav Chekalin and Vitaliy Belousov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A long-awaited and unusual event took place at the Yantar shipbuilding yard on the Baltic Sea.

A ceremony was held here to hand over to the Russian Navy the Admiral Chabanenko super-modern antisubmarine vessel of the new generation, which was built here. [passage omitted]

The ship will join the Northern Fleet. It was named after legendary Northern Fleet Commander Andrey Trofimovich Chabanenko. This is a pilot ship of the new series, the combat characteristics of which are secret, of course. The only thing we have managed to find out about it is that no submarine will be able to escape from it. Unfortunately, the vessel took three times as long to build due to financial problems. Another thing: According to tradition, when a pilot ship of the new series is built, one should immediately start building the next one. However, no such possibility exists at present.

Nuclear-Powered Cruiser To Undergo Performance Trials

LD1409110795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1043 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — The Petr Velikiy (Peter the Great) nuclear-powered cruiser is being prepared for a performance trial. The building of the cruiser is one of priority projects today, a spokesman for the Information and Press Department of the Russian Defence Ministry told Tass.

Until recently, the Petr Velikiy was one of the projects, whose finishing seemed to be postponed for an indefinite period of time. Now the crew is already working at the cruiser, moored at the shipyard berth in St. Petersburg.

According to the Defence Ministry, it is living through continuous difficulties with financing defence-industry orders. Despite all its difficulties, the Defence Ministry is trying to provide financial resources for St. Petersburg industrial enterprises.

In the opinion of Defence Ministry specialists, more effective cooperation between regional leaders and customers from the Ministry is one of the ways to preserve the defence potential of this country. The experience of cooperation with many regions shows that various mutual payment transactions make it possible to resolve many acute problems, which worsen the socio-economic situation at arms-manufacturing enterprises.

Atomic Minister Cited on New Nuclear Projects

MM1509105595 Moscow NTV Television in Russian 1500 GMT 28 Aug 95

[Video report from Polytechnical Museum on 50th anniversary of nuclear industry by Aleksey Ivlev, identified by caption; from the "Segodnya" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ivlev over video of Atomic Energy Minister Mikhaylov opening exhibition, diagram of new reactor] After the ceremonial opening of the anniversary exhibition, nuclear experts showed off their lastest achievements. Viktor Anufriyenko, one of the leaders of the Obninsk Energy Physics Institute, talked about the nuclear reactor of the future — the embodiment of mankind's dream to create a perpetual motion machine.

[Anufriyenko against backdrop of a diagram of new nuclear reactor] In addition to producing electricity, this reactor is capable of producing approximately 1.3 kg of new fuel per kilogram of used fuel.

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[Iviev] Minister Viktor Mikhaylov talked about another development that his ministry has been working on for the past four years.

[Mikhaylov to camera] ...destruction of chemical weapons using underground nuclear explosions.

[Iviev] Admittedly, such nuclear explosions would run counter the total test ban treaty which is currently being drawn up. However, according to Mikhaylov, the Ministry of Atomic Energy's project has one indisputable advantage.

[Mikhaylov] This method is approximately 100 times cheaper than any other method.

[Iviev] At the same time the head of the Atomic Energy Ministry declared that he regards as flimsy France and China's explanations about the needed to carry out additional nuclear tests.

[Mikhaylov] What will these tests add to what they already have? Nothing at all.

[Iviev] Aleksey Iviev and Lev Dovgvillo reporting for NTV from the Polytechnical Museum. [video shows opening of anniversary exhibition, Anufriyenko reporting on new nuclear reactor, Mikhaylov addressing meeting]

Nuclear Waste in South Urals Said Under Control

LD1409211095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1744 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] OZERSK (CHELYABINSK REGION), Sept 14 (INTERFAX-EURASIA) — The situation with nuclear waste in the South Urals is under control, there is no reason for panic, a spokesman for the Mayak management told INTERFAX-EURASIA. Mayak is Russia's biggest recycler of nuclear waste located in Ozersk, the Chelyabinsk region.

The chairman of the Federal Nuclear Security Committee, Yuriy Vishnevskiy, had told INTERFAX-EURASIA last Wednesday that the South Urals could face an environmental disaster even more terrible than the Chernobyl one.

According to Vishnevskiy, "a kind of lens of nuclear waste has formed" in the soil under lake Karachay located on the territory of the Mayak plant. The "lens" contains several hundred cubic meters of nuclear waste. He said the waste was moving 70 to 85 meters a year towards the Irtysh river, which may contaminate the surroundings up to the Arctic Ocean.

Joint Russian-ESA Mission Continues Aboard Mir

LD1509105195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1030 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MISSION CONTROL CENTRE, September 15 (ITAR-TASS) — Yuriy Gidzenko, Sergey Avdeyev and Thomas Reiter, astronaut of the European Space Agency (ESA), continue working on board the Mir research complex. They proceeded with geophysical, technological, astrophysical, biological and medical experiments on board the station in the past days.

The flight's programme for Friday includes observations of solar and galaxial flares, the study of gas between stars, the measurement of parameters of the atmosphere in sections of the orbital complex, as well as the study of micro-meteorite situation along the route of the station's flight.

The commander and flight engineer will be readying scientific equipment for planned work. The astronaut of the ESA is engaged in medical research.

According to results of medical control, the three astronauts are in good health and feel well.

Kokoshin Calls for More Space Activities Funding

MM1509091995 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Sep 95 p 1

["Own Information" report under the "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and News Agency Correspondents Report" rubric: "Space Technology Is One of the Most Important Priorities"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation Ministry of Defense, represented by Andrey Kokoshin, first deputy minister of defense, participated in a celebration in honor of Colonel General of Aviation German Titov, the planet's second cosmonaut, and congratulated him on his 60th birthday on behalf of the minister of defense and the ministry collegium. Noting German Titov's outstanding services to the fatherland, he said that cosmonautics and the space rocket industry occupy a very important place in the life of the whole country. It is a sphere in which tremendous resources, people's talents, and a lot of inventiveness have been invested.

Russian space technologies are capable of satisfying tens, if not hundreds, of areas of scientific and technical development, Kokoshin emphasized. This is why they must be among the most important priorities in Russia's industrial and defense policy and be reflected in the budget for 1996 and in long-term plans. Urgent state measures are needed to rectify the funding of the

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defense order and of the Russian Space Agency's activities.

Federal Assembly

Parliament Unlikely To Approve 1996 Draft Budget

LD1409135495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1326 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — The first acquaintance of deputies to the upper chamber of the Russian parliament with the 1996 draft budget shows that both the Federation Council and the State Duma will hardly agree unconditionally with the document, submitted by the government.

"There will be an enormous difference between the draft document and the document which will be adopted by the Federal Assembly," Deputy Chairman of the Federation Council Valerian Viktorov said at a press conference there.

He pointed out that for the first time over the past several years the draft budget proceeded from the assumption that the reduction of the gross domestic product would be stopped, and envisaged the record-low inflation of 3.5 per cent a year. Viktorov doubts that inflation can be that low and believes that, when adopting a new budget, "one should have some optimism, and should be a commonsense pessimist at the same time."

In his opinion, it would be expedient to add to the draft budget the norms that will stipulate the procedure for the changing of the amount of financing, if planned targets of the coming of revenues fail to be reached. The role of the parliament should be enhanced in the process of the fulfilment of the budget, "and not postfactum, when it adopts a resolution on the fulfilment or non-fulfilment of the budget."

Viktorov believes that on October 3, when members of the Federation Council get together at their first session after the recess, they will "look through the articles of the future budget, in order to submit their proposals to the State Duma as soon as possible."

Theoretically, he believes, MPs can adopt the 1996 budget in 1995, as was planned, but in reality "the present Duma will, most probably, send it back to the government for finishing, and it is a new Federal Assembly that will adopt the new budget."

Duma Deputy Lysenko Warns of Communist Resurgence

LD1409134695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1313 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] MOSCOW, September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — State Duma deputy Nikolay Lysenko, who leads the National-Republican Party of Russia, called a press conference here today to warn the country about the threat of communist restoration in Russia.

According to Nikolay Lysenko, the five election alliances formed by the communists can, in close cooperation with the Agrarian Party of Russia, win enough seats in the State Duma to gain control over its activity.

Nikolay Lysenko spoke in favour of preserving the presidency of the Russian Federation. As is known, the communists insist on the abolishment of the office.

"You cannot cut the trunk which keeps the entire tree of the state. The presidential office is the corner stone for building a new Russian state," Lysenko stressed. "Without presidency, separatism in Russia will receive a new stimulus, and the great country will be ruined," the leader of the Party of Russian nationalists said in condemning the decision made by the communist group in the lower house of the parliament on Wednesday to start a procedure of impeachment against the President.

Nikolay Lysenko also warned against any revision of the results of privatisation advocated by communists. "A total revision of privatisation would result in a bloodbath for the country," he said. Lysenko also condemned "communist ravings about the restoration of the USSR."

Lysenko announced that he had addressed an open letter to President Boris Yeltsin calling on the head of state "to seal the country's financial borders and restrict transfers of hard currency to other countries." Lysenko also urged in his letter "nationalisation of the leading television and radio broadcasting companies."

Asked why he had torn the cross off clergyman Gleb Yakunin, a Duma Deputy, on Saturday, the NRP leader replied briefly: "He is an agent-provocateur. He kept provoking the deputies to take forcible action, and I eventually got sick and tired of it." Lysenko said he would return the cross to Gleb Yakunin, "if he proves that the cross belongs to him personally and not to the patriarchy."

NRP political secretary Nikolay Pavlov said his party's main objective was to "foster a sound Russian nationalism because there is no other way to save the nation." He noted that "Russian liberalism is crumbling under

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NATO airstrikes against Serbs." For this reason, "we need no other ideology."

Nikolay Pavlov said that "the West in the conflict in the Balkans has trampled all standards of humanity." He stressed that "with the help of American Tomahawks, Russia is being cut to size." [passage omitted]

Lysenko, Zhirinovskiy Investigated For Duma Brawl

LD1409162095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1510 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Olga Semenova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy may face a prison term of five years or two years in a labour camp for the Saturday brawl in the State Duma.

The same punishment envisaged by article 206 of the criminal code for "extreme hooliganism" can face the other brawl inciter, nationalist deputy Nikolay Lysenko as well.

On Thursday the office of the Russian Prosecutor General initiated a criminal case in connection "with hooligan actions in the conference hall of the State Duma on September 9, 1995", senior aide of the Prosecutor General Aleksandr Zvyagintsev told TASS Thursday.

The case was launched after Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin requested the Prosecutor General to investigate the actions of Lysenko and Zhirinovskiy.

However, the case will hardly end in court as the two lawmakers are to be first stripped of parliamentarty immunity. But so far all requests of prosecutors to strip immunity from lawmakers suspected of committing crimes brought no result.

The Saturday brawl erupted during a heated debate on Bosnia. Lysenko attacked deputy and defrocked priest Gleb Yakunin and ripped off a cross from him. Zhirinovskiy joined the scuffle and beat a woman deputy, Yevgeniya Tishkovskaya, who rushed to calm down the fighting deputies.

Tishkovskaya said she would sue Zhirinovskiy, while Yakunin said he would report Lysenko for stealing his cross.

Duma Agrarians To Poll Farmers on Land Ownership

LD1409133795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1307 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — The State Duma agrarian faction has decided to appeal to the country's peasants on the issue of land ownership, leader of the Russian Agrarian Party Ivan Lapshin told a news conference on Thursday.

The faction's members and all leaders of the farmer movement intend to hold village councils across the country to clarify the peasants' opinion, Lapshin said.

He also said that the agrarians considered it necessary to learn the opinion of city dwellers about the issue of land ownership in cities. "We shall summarise their judgements, and this will be our programme for the forthcoming parliamentary election," he said.

He admitted that many farmers were interested in Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's idea about holding an all-Russia referendum to find out whether the country's population wants private land ownership. "We are not afraid of a referendum, but we consider that this issue is clearly stated in Article 84 of the Constitution which reads that land is collectively owned by the state and the components of the Russian Federation," Lapshin said.

Land cannot be bought or sold, according to Russia's Land Code. However, it can be leased, acquired for lifelong ownership, and inherited, he stressed.

A separate item should be included in the 1996 budget for the preservation of land and the restoration of its fertility, according to Lapshin.

Russia's private farms account only for 5 per cent of the country's agricultural production whereas individual plots of collective farmers make up to 25 per cent of it, he said.

Panel Chair Dobrovolskaya on Duma-Army Relations

MM1409124395 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Sep 95 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Marina Dobrovolskaya, chairman of the Russian State Duma Defense Committee's Subcommittee for Social and Legal Protection of Servicemen and Members of Their Families, and deputy from the "Women of Russia" faction, by Vitaliy Strugovets; place

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and date not given: "Few People in Parliament Take the Army's Problems to Heart"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Strugovets] Marina Karamanovna, the draft law "On Introducing Amendments and Additions to the Russian Federation Law 'On Pension Security for Persons Who Have Performed Military Service or Service in the Internal Affairs Organs and for Members of Their Families,'" which you have drafted, recently had its first reading. But this is just one fragment of your parliamentary activity....

[Dobrovolskaya] Speaking in general about the lawmaking work of our subcommittee and of the Defense Committee as a whole, we can boldly list among our victories the fact that the extension of the Law "On Supplementary Guarantees and Compensation Payments for Servicemen Performing Military Service on the Territory of States in the Transcaucasus, the Baltic Region, and the Republic of Tajikistan or Performing Tasks Associated With Protecting the Constitutional Rights of Citizens in Conditions of State of Emergency or Armed Conflict" to cover servicemen who have fought in Chechnya was signed by the Russian Federation president and came into force 10 May of this year. In fact, this was the first law to reflect the extremely complex events in Russia's life associated with the armed conflict in the Chechen Republic. In my view, we initiated some useful amendments and additions to the Laws "On the Status of Servicemen," "On Property Insurance for Servicemen," "On Military Service Obligation and Military Service" to which I alone introduced 53 amendments, and "On Veterans." The committee's "portfolio" now contains some equally topical and significant draft laws on military law enforcement organs, on military police, and amendments to other draft laws.

In addition, we have held parliamentary hearings on the problems of preventing death and injury among servicemen (June 1994), on the state of affairs in the Russian Federation Navy (October 1994), and on the social and legal protection of servicemen, persons discharged from military service, and members of their families (July 1994). We will return to the last one of these problems in October this year. During the next scheduled parliamentary hearings on social and legal protection of servicemen, we will focus our attention mainly on the question of housing construction in light of the shortfall in financing construction expenditure.

Turning directly to the draft law "On Introducing Amendments and Additions to the Russian Federation Law 'On Pension Security...,'" it fundamentally amends the limited interpretation of the norms of social security for military pensioners and members of their families. The draft law envisages an equalization of the rights of military pensioners and civilian pensioners. This applies to veterans of the Leningrad blockade during World War II, persons born before 31 December 1931, and servicemen who have served a long time beyond the Polar Circle. If this law comes into force, thousands of military pensioners and members of their families will start receiving significantly larger pensions than today. But let us not build up too many hopes of success at first reading. This is a "spending" law, as the saying goes. Its implementation will require considerable funding. This means that there will be enough obstacles in its path. We propose bringing the law into force as of January 1996. But next year's budget has been almost completely set by the government. Therefore, when the State Duma is adopting the budget, it will be necessary to aim for the appropriation of funds to implement the draft law we are proposing.

...You must agree that the main point is not to just pass the law but to make sure that it is effective. And making the law effective means getting the money in the first place. If the money is not appropriated in the budget and if a financing mechanism has not been worked out, there can be no implementation of the law. A graphic example is provided by the Law "On the Status of Servicemen." At present it requires 240 (!) acts of delegated legislation applying mainly to its spending provisions: provision of housing, free use of transport, medical and sanatorium-resort services, and so on. Incidentally, proposals to completely repeal this law have been made in the light of repeatedly raised questions about the ineffectiveness of a whole series of its articles. It is good that we managed to persuade deputies not to repeal but to improve the law by working out a mechanism for its implementation.

Generally speaking, the lack of mechanisms to implement the laws is one of our legislation's flaws. Look at alternative service for example. The Russian Federation Constitution provides for the right to substitute alternative civilian service for military service. The relevant federal law has been given its first reading. But what does it provide? Just the fact that alternative service is permitted. That is all. There is virtually not a single word about the mechanism for implementing the law: Who will provide jobs for draftees, who will clothe, feed, and train them, where will the money for all this be found, from which department's or ministry's funds....

Unfortunately, a certain number of deputies feel as if the problems of the Army and of national security do not exist. And not only when the issue concerns young servicemen. For example, when the State Duma Social Policy Committee first submitted the Law "On Veterans," it did not say a single word about Army veterans. The draft law "On Social Protection for Citizens Ex-

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posed to Radioactive Effects as a Consequence of the Chernobyl AES [nuclear electric powerstation] Disaster" did not make a single mention of servicemen.

[Strugovets] How would you explain such "oversight" by parliamentarians? Could it be due to the absence of a "military" lobby in the State Duma?

[Dobrovolskaya] Yes, to a certain extent. Let us recall that, during the first State Duma elections, the Ministry of Defense leadership "did not recommend" that servicemen should run for parliament. Consequently, parliament today obviously lacks people who sincerely take to heart the problems of the Army and the state's defense capability. It is not only a question of taking these problems to heart, but also of realizing what is needed to solve them. As a matter of fact, I do not advocate just having as many uniformed people in the State Duma as possible, the main point is to understand the Army's problems and uphold the interests of people performing an important state task. There must also be an apparatus of military specialists who could prepare and substantiate various proposals on military problems and persuade deputies that they need to be resolved. Money is being cut from Army maintenance provisions without any numerical calculation, without any proposals. It is said that neither the deputies nor the voters will see through this. But they will! Unfortunately, the 1996 budget which has been submitted to the State Duma has again not been broken down by expenditure items. It is not easy to persuade deputies to vote more funds for the national security item without specific figures and substantiations. Each voter and taxpayer wants to know how his money is being spent. During a recent meeting with teachers I bluntly asked: What is more important today — to take money from the Army for the new textbooks you want, or to use this money to improve the provision of food and clothing for conscripts and to pay "contractors" who, given a certain amount of money, are prepared to stand in for those who are unwilling to serve in the Army? And what do you think? It emerged in the end that old textbooks can be used for teaching, but soldiers cannot be left hungry and barefoot under the open sky.

Therefore, it is only a matter of a clear-cut conceptual definition of priorities.

[Strugovets] What sort of personal relations do you have with the Ministry of Defense leadership? Do you always manage to find a common language?

[Dobrovolskaya] My relations with the Ministry of Defense are good. Probably thanks to the fact that I myself worked there for 13 years. I often meet with the minister of defense and the main directorate chiefs. It has only been on rare occasions that conversations with Army General Grachev, Colonel General of the Medical Service Chizh, and many others have failed to produce a common opinion. So much for myself. But here are some other examples.

Tamara Zlotnikova, member of the State Duma Ecology Committee, traveled to Maritime Kray to see the work on the burial of nuclear waste from the Pacific Fleet's nuclear submarines. She telephoned a few days later and reported that the Navy Main Staff had issued instructions that deputies should not be allowed at the place of burial. How is this possible? First, this is a direct breach of the law — Russian Federation deputies are entitled to visit any facility on Russian territory. Second, deputies should be invited there rather than being chased away so that they might help in financing the building of reliable "graves." Had this happened, it can be assumed that, on her return to Moscow, Deputy Zlotnikova would have raised the question of increasing the Russian Federation Ministry of defense budget for the utilization of military property instead of creating a parliamentary commission to inspect the Pacific Fleet.

[Strugovets] Persistent delays in the payment of money allowances are a proper calamity for the Army. Does parliament intend to respond to this in any way?

[Dobrovolskaya] Despite the fact that, on the initiative of State Duma Defense Committee members, servicemen are the only group of state servants whose money allowance appears as a separate expenditure item in the budget, this problem is indeed still with us. And we intend to respond to it seriously. Work is now under way on a draft law under which any delay in the payment of money allowances or wages should be compensated in line with inflation. The law will provide tough norms of liability for leaders who are to blame for the delayed payments.

Regional Affairs

Reportage on Chechnya Situation, Politics, Economy

Chechens Reject Third Party in Talks

LD1409175195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1656 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Sept 14 (INTERFAX) — Dzhokhar Dudayev's negotiators in the talks with the federal government reject the participation of a third party.

"The delegation of the Chechen Republic-Ichkeria is authorized to negotiate only with the delegation of the Russian Federation," they said in a written response to questions posed by the federal delegation.

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Concerning the participation of "real political forces" such as the National Reconciliation Committee and the National Revival Government the Dudayev officials said that they have a mandate only for bilateral talks.

Nor did their mandate enable the Dudayev delegation to attend a round table on political settlement in Chechnya.

They said in their document that a round table is no substitute for the talks.

The Dudayev delegation reiterated their willingness to discuss political issues such as holding elections in Chechnya.

Grachev: Troops Need Not Withdraw

LD1409174995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1630 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 14 Sep (ITAR-TASS) — There is no need to withdraw federal forces from Chechnya at present, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev today to told journalists today.

He said the start of the withdrawal of Interior Ministry troops from Chechnya came as a surprise to him. The function of these troops at the moment is to protect order in the republic. Pavel Grachev said he discussed the issue with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on Wednesday. Grachev said Chernomyrdin is also puzzled by the withdrawal. The government believed that it is the withdrawal of the Russian army that had began. Grachev said Viktor Chernomyrdin was due to discuss this problem today with the relevant officials.

Pavel Grachev believes the Russian army has discharged its functions in Chechnya after destroying the main groupings of armed militants. The units that are not due to remain stationed there can be withdrawn from Chechnya. The remaining units will occupy two military cantonments in Groznyy — at the Severnyy airfield and at Khankala, Grachev noted. "A base has been set up by military construction troops and the cantonments repaired. We can occupy them," Pavel Grachev said.

He believes the troop withdrawal should proceed subject to the evolving situation. "I would not be in a hurry right now, as the situation there is not as rosy as they paint it," he stressed.

"Yes, the surrender of weapons is under way there. But look, at the kind of weapons. It is not the organized formations who are surrendering the weapons but odd individuals who had not been fighting," Pavel Grachev said. "The main bulk of the weapons remains in the mountains, in the hands of the bandits," the minister said. "We should not flatter ourselves with the illusion that a mass surrender of weapons has begun," Pavel Grachev stressed.

Troops Cite 'Lies, Provocation'

LD1409210795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1940 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Sept 14 (INTERFAX) — The federal troop command in Chechnya described as "deliberate lies and provocation aimed at further destabilizing the situation in Chechnya and torpedoing the implementation of the military accord" today's statement by Dzhokhar Dudayev's interior ministry.

Referring to "available reliable information," the statement said that "Russian power ministries are planning a provocation in the city of Shali with many casualties and damage, as was the case in the cities of Gudermes, Argun and villages Achkhoy-Martan, Kurchaloy, etc."

A member of the special Russian-Chechen commission supervising the implementation of the military accord, Dalkhan Khozhayev, distributed this statement among journalists in Groznyy Thursday.

In its response statement forwarded to INTERFAX Thursday, the federal command said that "the goal of this "statement" is to try to justify the pro-Dudayev side's failure to comply with virtually all the provisions of the military agreement, chiefly on the disarmament of illegal armed formations, in the eyes of the public."

"The charges of breaching the agreement by the federal troops is nothing but an attempt to avoid responsibility for delaying peace settlement in Chechnya," it added.

"It cannot be excluded that pro-Dudayev rebels plan to use arms liable to be handed over to solve the main issue, that of power," it continued.

The statement stipulated that "pro-Dudayev rebels continue provocations against federal troops, keep shelling their positions, mining the area and taking hostages, covered by dishonest "statements" and independence slogans."

Lobov Calls Situation 'Disastrous'

LD1409214595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2056 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 14 (INTERFAX) — The situation in Chechnya is disastrous. The federal power bodies must do their best to complete the restoration operation as soon as possible, the Russian president's envoy in Chechnya and Russian Security Council Secretary Oleg Lobov said at the meeting of the government commission for restoring the Chechen economy today.

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Lobov said if the restoration operation in Chechnya continued at the same pace the restoration of Groznyy alone would take 20 years. He said Chechen industrial enterprises must be rebuilt as soon as possible because having over 400,000 unemployed persons in Chechnya might provoke very serious social tension.

Lobov sharply criticized the activity of the Russian finance and economics ministries for the restoration operation in Chechnya.

Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, who is the chairman of the commission for restoring the Chechen economy, agreed with Lobov. Soskovets said the Finance Ministry had wrecked the schedule for financing the restoration operation and had failed to take necessary measures for paying the Chechen population delayed wages and compensation for damaged property. He said the Finance Ministry had failed to appropriately coordinate its actions with the Central Bank of Russia.

Soskovets instructed the Finance Ministry to work out within a one-day deadline and submit for consideration by the government the schedule for funding the restoration operation in Chechnya in September. He said the Finance Ministry should focus on financing the restoration of the energy sector, transport and communications and on housing construction.

First Deputy Finance Minister Vladimir Petrov said the government commission should revise the list of authorized banks attracted for ensuring the financing of the restoration operation in Chechnya. He said several commercial banks had failed to carry out their tasks which derailed the August financing schedule.

Soskovets instructed law enforcement to reinforce the defense of restored facilities, primarily in the energy sector. He also instructed the Russian Fuel and Energy Ministry to decide together with the Chechen government of national revival on the conclusion of a contract with a Russian oil company on selling oil produced in Chechnya.

The commission's meeting also involved Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays, Chairman of the Chechen National Revival Government Salambek Khadzhiyev and Chairman of the Chechen National Accord Committee Umar Avturkhanov.

Volskiy Comments on Military Situation

LD1409213295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2056 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ST. PETERSBURG, Sept 14 (INTERFAX) — As many as 60% of Chechen military formations are still subordinated to Dzhokhar Dudayev. The rest of the Chechen military formations are controlled by Salambek Khadzhiyev, Umar Avturkhanov and Ruslan Labazanov, President of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Arkadiy Volskiy told a press conference in St. Petersburg today.

Volskiy, who is in addition the Russian deputy chief negotiator at talks with Dudayev's representatives in Groznyy, said there were also the so-called "Islamic battalions of death" which were fully independent and had no intention of handing over arms.

Volskiy said representatives of all parties in the Chechen conflict will hold a closed-door round-table meeting in Chechnya on Saturday, September 16.

Volskiy said he believed that the continuation of war in Chechnya "must be ruled out."

He also said he believed that the "banal pumping of trillions of rubles out of the Russian budget into Chechnya will end with another theft." Volskiy said Chechnya should bear the major part of its restoration expenses itself. He said Chechnya might acquire the necessary funds by extracting and processing oil.

Budennovsk Seen As Random Terrorism

LD1409122495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1048 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BUDENNOVSK, Sept 14 (INTERFAX) — "There is no doubt that Shamil Basayev's statement on his group's intention to make a raid on Moscow is no more than boasting because such a group would surely be tracked and destroyed on its way to Moscow," leader of a team of investigators of the Russian Prosecutor General's Office, who is investigating the circumstances of the tragedy in Budennovsk, Anatoliy Iskantsev has told INTERFAX.

Over one hundred people died in the city in mid June at the hands of Chechen terrorists.

However, the final answer to the question of where Basayev was going to lead his group of terrorists, could only emerge after Basayev's arrest and interrogation, said Iskantsev.

At the same time, he said, investigators believe that Basayev's likely goal was the hijacking of a plane (or planes) at the airport Mineralniye Vody. They also believe that the action was aimed at carrying Dzhokhar Dudayev abroad.

"We also do not rule out the assumption that the militants worked out plans for terrorist acts in any of the cities on their way to their target," said Iskantsev.

"Budennovsk seems to have become a random victim of the terrorists after they were stopped by a police

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check point and felt that they were exposed and could be attacked by police force," said Iskantsev.

Further From Budennovsk Investigator

LD1409182995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1732 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BUDENNOVSK, Sept 14 (INTERFAX) — The head of an investigation team of the Russian Prosecutor General has spoken against the practice of destroying arms surrendered by militants in Chechnya.

Anatoliy Iskantsev, who heads the team investigating the circumstances of the hostage crisis in Budennovsk (in which over one hundred people died last June), told INTERFAX that the destruction of weapons is a crude mistake that can greatly hinder the efforts of law-enforcement bodies to investigate crimes committed by militants.

Iskantsev stressed that confiscated weapons which could have been used by terrorists must be preserved and studied for possible use as evidence in criminal cases opened in relation to crimes committed by the Dudayev regime.

The investigator was also surprised by the payment for the arms surrendered by militants. "Last May a submachine gun in Chechnya cost 300-400 thousand rubles, today 800 thousand are paid for it," he said.

In his opinion, the federal authorities are actually funding the militants who want to change their worn-out arms for better submachine guns and grenade-throwers, often brand new.

Iskantsev said that such a practice will lead to the strengthening of gangs in Chechnya in the near future.

Panskov Comments on Economic Situation

LD1409152995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1415 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian federal budget is not running a debt to the local budget of the Chechen Republic, Russian Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov told ITAR-TASS on Thursday. He returned from a working visit to Groznyy on Wednesday.

Russia has run up a debt of 160 billion roubles on the schedule of the payment of federal funds for the restoration of the Chechen economy and social area, endorsed by the governmental commission headed by First Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets. This debt will be repaid in September-October.

The 231 billion roubles that are to be transferred from the federal budget to Chechnya in 1995 have been remitted to Chechen accounts in full amount, Panskov said. The needs of Chechnya, above all for the development of the social area, are estimated at 900 billion roubles. Salaries to employees of enterprises and services financed from the budget have not yet been paid out in full, the Minister said.

Under the decisions of the commission led by Soskovets, 4,300 billion roubles are to be paid additionally from the federal budget before the end of the year toward the restoration of the economy and social area of Chechnya ravaged as a result of the armed conflict. Almost 2,000 billion roubles have already been transferred. Priority areas for the allocation of funds for the restoration of the Chechen economy will be decided at a regular meeting of the commission on Thursday.

These allocations have not been envisaged under the budget for the current year, Panskov said. The Finance Ministry will have to draw funds from investment programmes of various ministries and agencies to amass the required 4,300 billion roubles.

It is necessary to tighten control over the use of these funds, Panskov believes. This was the main in debating this problem with Chairman of the government of national revival of Chechnya Salambek Khadzhiyev and plenipotentiary representative of the Russian President in Chechnya Oleg Lobov during Panskov's visit to Chechnya.

The federal budget receives hardly any funds in the form of tax from Groznyy, Panskov said. Only 12 billion roubles as against the planned 90 billion were received this year. These funds are spent on the maintenance of schools, hospitals and daily amenities in Chechnya.

Ninety per cent of schools in Chechnya have been restored. The academic year begins on October 15, the Minister said. The financial activity in Chechnya is being successfully restored. The Chechen budget has been coordinated with the Finance Ministry. The structures of the Ministry, the tax service and representatives of the tax police begin working effectively. The accounting facility of the Central Bank will later be set up as a next step toward restoring the financial system of Chechnya. It will possibly begin operating shortly.

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Former Chechen Leader on Duma Candidacy

LD1409171695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1545 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Igor Belskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — The Soviet-era Chechen top communist, who was ousted by General Dzhokhar Dudayev in 1991, is ready to forget the past and agree that the separatist leader is invited to join the peace process in the rebel republic.

He also agreed to run for the State Duma in a Chechen constituency.

Doku Zavgayev, former chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Checheno- Ingushetia, told a press conference Thursday that he did not "rule out the possibility of involving Dzhokhar Dudayev into the process of restoring peace in Chechnya to such an extent in which he can promote the normalisation of the situation in the republic".

Zavgayev is sure that "in the current situation it is necessary to refrain from a stand-off between the Chechens, to drop the artificial division (of them) into supporters and adversaries". "The situation does not ease, the ethnic conflict in the republic aggravates", he said.

"I am ready to brush aside all personal emotions, to step on my own pride and to look for the ways of a peaceful settlement with anyone who wishes", Zavgayev said, but admitted that so far he had not even tried to contact Ruslan Khasbulatov, former Russian parliament speaker who is also popular in Chechnya.

Khasbulatov, an ethnic Chechen, headed an armed revolt against Boris Yeltsin in October 1993, but the president said at the latest press conference that one should not remember the past forever and that Khasbulatov should not be ignored.

Zavgayev said that "after all that happened with Chechnya" it should have bigger rights than any other region of Russia. He even said that the variant of the Moscow-Tatarstan share-power deal is not acceptable for Chechnya.

The deal does not grant Tatarstan the right to independently engage in foreign relations.

Zavgayev announced that the Our Home is Russia election bloc of premier Viktor Chernomyrdin proposed to him to run for the State Duma in a Chechen constituency and that he had accepted the proposal.

Kotyonkov: Elections Must Follow Accords

LD1409182695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1732 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 14 (INTERFAX) — Elections cannot be held in the Chechen Republic until political and military settlements are achieved there, deputy nationalities and regional policy minister Aleksandr Kotyonkov told INTERFAX Thursday.

Kotyonkov explained that local elections cannot be held there so soon, within six months. Firstly, elections cannot be held at gunpoint, he said. Secondly, to hold elections in compliance with federal legislation on local self-government, a legislative body should be formed which would pass guidelines on local-self-government bodies in the Chechen Republic, on elections of these bodies and on the boundaries of local self-government, Kotyonkov said.

For all these reasons, he believes, Chechnya must remain an exceptional case and local regulations will have to be passed by the Russian State Duma, probably after the December elections.

Soskovets Meets on Reconstruction

LD1409202395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1925 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — The reconstruction programme for Chechnya and preparation of its housing, power and transport services for the winter season were discussed today at a meeting of the state commission for socio-economic rehabilitation of Chechnya chaired by Russian first Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets.

The meeting was attended by the Russian president's envoy to Chechnya Oleg Lobov, first Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays and members of Chechnya's Government of National Revival.

An official of the Russian Construction Ministry informed the meeting that 405,000 square metres of housing had been reconstructed, the target figure for this year being 600,000 square metres. Constructors have also launched 18 schools with 14,000 class places, three 915-bed hospitals and all medical centres of Chechnya.

A Russian deputy minister for fuel and energy reported to the meeting that the launch of Groznyy's thermal power station, scheduled for November, would be followed by reopening of Grozny's refinery. The refinery is estimated to have an annual output of 400,000 tonnes of oil.

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Soskovets commissioned the Chechen Government of National Revival to draw a contract with one of Russian oil companies for sales of Chechnya's oil.

The company in question appears to be LUKoil.

Chechen government chairman Salambek Khadzhiyev informed the commission about delays in the funding of the reconstruction programme and in the payment of social allowances to the Chechen population.

War damages, 100,000 roubles per capita, have been paid only to 43,000 of 300,000 eligible population.

The damages programme earmarks 1.5 million roubles for everyone whose housing was destroyed by the war.

Volskiy on Petersburg 'Union of Labor' Bloc

LD1409214795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2057 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ST. PETERSBURG, Sept 14 (INTERFAX) — A new electoral bloc, the Union of Labor, will be registered next week, president of the Russian League of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Arkadiy Volskiy, said at a news conference in St. Petersburg Thursday.

Volskiy arrived in St. Petersburg to take part in organizing the new bloc's electoral campaign.

According to him, the Union of Labor will cooperate with Mikhail Lapshin's Agrarian Party of Russia.

Volskiy said that the union was set up by St. Petersburg entrepreneurs and trade unions in order to raise in parliament the issues of unemployment, conversion to peaceful production and support of domestic producers.

The union will field candidates in about 140 single-seat constituencies, he said.

Consultations started in Moscow last Wednesday, he continued, on cooperation between the union and the leaders of My Motherland, a movement which had left Ivan Rybkin's coalition. Volskiy did not think that the talks would be easy because the trade unions disagree with My Motherland's platform.

Volskiy added that Union of Labor and My Motherland representatives will meet again on September 16 to discuss the compatibility of their platforms.

Fuel Shortage May Force Leningrad AES Closure

LD1409130695 St. Petersburg Fifth Channel Television Network in Russian 1130 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leningrad nuclear power station is cutting electricity generation because of a lack of nuclear fuel. If fuel does not arrive by 28 September, all power units will be shut down. The reason is a lack of money; the nuclear power station is currently owed 440 billion rubles.

'Our Home' Leading Polls in Yekaterinburg

LD1309170195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEKATERINBURG, Sept 13 (INTERFAX-EURASIA) — The Russia Is Our Home bloc of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has the highest rating in Yekaterinburg.

According to the results of a public opinion poll carried out by the Release analytical agency, 15% of voters in the December 17 elections will support Russia Is Our Home.

All in all, more than 40% of local eligible electors will participate in the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

A total of 11% of them will vote for YABLoko, 7.5% for the Communist Party, 7.5% for the Women of Russia bloc, 5.6% for the Congress of Russian Communities, 4.7% for the Russian Movement of Democratic Reforms. Only 2.8% are planning to vote for the Liberal-Democratic Party. Less than 2% of poll participants said they will vote for the Forward, Russia! bloc, the Choice of Russia, the Party for Economic Freedom and the bloc of Ivan Rybkin. Less than 1% will vote for the Agrarian Party, the Party of Russian Unity and Accord and the Russian National Unity.

According to sociologists, every fifth poll participant found it difficult to name a bloc or a party he would like to support. More than 5% of participants in future elections will vote against all parties.

Kemerovo Deputies Claim Right To Appoint Governor

MK1409132795 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Yelena Tregubova: "Kemerovo Deputies Have Given All Power to Themselves. In Lawyers' Opinions, the New Charter of the Oblast 'Has Nothing in Common With the Russian Constitution'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, Kemerovo Oblast deputies adopted a local charter vesting the legislative assembly and its speaker, Amangeldy Tuleyev, with virtually unlimited power.

Specifically, the deputies legislatively deprived the people of Kemerovo Oblast of the right to elect their governor. The legislative assembly assigned the right to appoint the head of the oblast administration to itself.

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In addition, under the charter, the Oblast Duma speaker can sign any statutory acts and documents without coordination with the local administration.

As the Kemerovo Justice Directorate has emphasized, the charter is in glaring contradiction with the principle of the division of powers and "has nothing in common with the Russian Constitution."

Kemerovo Governor Mikhail Kislyuk took this demarche of the local Duma as "a new stage in the fight" by Amangeldy Tuleyev, an activist of the "irreconcilable opposition," who heads the legislative assembly. Mr. Tuleyev, a former apparatchik in the local oblast committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and former head of the Kemerovo Oblast Soviet, now occupies the third place on the electoral slate of Zyuganov's Communist Party. He himself admits that his dream is to turn the Kuzbass [Kuznetsk coal field] into "the cradle of a new revolution and to restore Soviet power." Mikhail Kislyuk says that in all previous years Amangeldy Tuleyev "conducted active 'subversive' activity among miners: Using their current difficulties as a pretext, he called on them to hold strikes under antidemocratic slogans." In the last year, however, according to the governor, "the irreconcilables," with Tuleyev at their head, "have noticeably lost the support of the people of Kemerovo, because the first positive results of the reform have become noticeable." In Mikhail Kislyuk's words, the local administration "is also systematically working so that the miners will cease to be a potential electorate for the Communists" — for instance, a mine modernization program has started to be implemented. According to Kemerovo officials, the former slogan stating that it is "impermissible" to close down unprofitable mines is also becoming less popular with miners: After the recent explosion at the Pervomayskaya Mine, "the need for the improvement of outdated, life-threatening mines and for the opening of new, efficient coal mining facilities with modern equipment has become even more evident."

Kemerovo's top management believes that it is because of the loss of their former popularity with the voters that Mr. Tuleyev's supporters wish to "give a reminder of themselves" by adopting such a "scandalous" charter.

Presidential administration staffers told your SEGODNYA correspondent that if the Kemerovo legislative assembly refuses to accept the Justice Ministry's criticism, the conflict could be settled by the Constitutional Court. A corresponding request may be submitted by either Governor Kislyuk himself or President Yeltsin, "on the governor's request."

The presidential administration believes that the Kemerovo "irreconcilables" will hardly be able to trigger "an oblast-scale October 1993" [revolt of the legislative branch against the executive branch] since "the oblast governor is in complete control of the situation." Both the presidential administration and the Kemerovo administration view the adoption of such a "pro-Soviet" charter by Tuleyev's Oblast Duma "most likely as the Communists' yearning to cause a sensational public scandal on the eve of the election for the purpose of publicity."

Vologda Paper Persecuted Over Reprinted Exposes

MM1409161095 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Viktor Filippov: "The Grain Affair — Mark 2. Vologda Authorities Persecute Independent Newspaper and Conceal From Population That Grain Is Infected With 'Potato Disease'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vologda — On the very same day that Russian President Boris Yeltsin, speaking at a democratic press forum, guaranteed journalists protection for freedom of speech, the RUSSKIY SEVER [Russian North] newspaper informed readers of reprisals which are being taken against it by Vologda Governor Nikolay Podgornov.

The RUSSKIY SEVER editorial office suddenly had its internal automatic telephone station telephones cut off. The city's "TV-7" television channel, whose cofounder is the oblast administration, broke its contract with RUSSKIY SEVER on the joint production of the "Novosti Vologdy" [Vologda News] television program before the expiry period and without any explanation. RUSSKIY SEVER Chief Editor Vladimir Pansyrev received a letter from the oblast administration giving him two months to vacate the offices in the former CPSU oblast committee building, which the editorial office has been renting for over four years, "in connection with the need to accommodate organs of state authority in the premises being rented."

RUSSKIY SEVER has been published since 1991. Thanks to its popularity it has a fair advertising income, which allows it to live without hanging on the words of businessmen and officials in expectation of a monetary handout.

"Governor Nikolay Podgornov has repeatedly threatened us with all kinds of punishments," Chief Editor Pansyrev recounts. "But when we reprinted from IZVESTIYA two articles — "The Grain Affair" and "Vologda Authorities" — he switched to overt actions. The press information and analytical work committee recently formed by the governor is circulating false information about these articles' authors and RUSSKIY

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SEVER. We have even been accused of publicly attacking the governor as the chairman of the regional branch of the "Russia Is Our Home" movement and of attempting to disorientate public opinion on the eve of the elections. But our newspaper does not participate in political games on principle. We see our mission as being merely the need to inform the population as fully as possible about what is happening in the oblast. The IZVESTIYA articles were reprinted because they gave an account of the oblast administration's use of federal budget funds. We spent two years trying to obtain such information, but the authorities have kept it in the strictest secrecy from Vologda journalists and even from deputies to the oblast legislative assembly.

The article "The Grain Affair" (IZVESTIYA, 2 August) was devoted to how Vologda Governor Podgornov distributed a credit of 21.7 billion rubles, allocated by the government from the federal budget, among his relatives and retinue. The "Vologda Authorities" report (IZVESTIYA, 30 August) lifted the lid on how people with a criminal past are obtaining power.

At the beginning of September, the Finance Ministry's Vologda Oblast Federal Treasury Administration completed an audit of the targeted use of budget funds allocated by the government at 10 percent interest per annum for the formation of a regional grain stock. Judging from the treasury's voluminous information, the article "The Grain Affair" touched on only a tiny part of the liberties which Vologda officials are taking with the state credit. They "stashed" this money in a commercial bank, issued preferential loans to private firms without arranging a security, extended the credit repayment term for them, and generously gave credit to those who had not even repaid what they had obtained previously.

The treasury established that R31.8896 billion of the R51.645-billion grain credit was actually spent on grain and flour in Vologda Oblast. And it also established that grain that was past its best was purchased: Over 11,000 tonnes of wheat delivered to Shekninskiy Cereal Products Combine was infected with "potato disease [kartofelnaya bolezn]." For the violations committed by the oblast administration during the grain credit's distribution and utilization the treasury imposed fines totaling over R7 billion which have to be paid into the federal budget. But it would be naive to think that it is those who have "appropriated" the state credit for their personal interests who will suffer. It is intended to extract the fine not from the wallets of the governor and his associates but from the oblast budget. Once again the people are paying for unscrupulous officials.

As regards the wheat purchased that was infected with "potato disease," there is not a state standard under which this wheat should be rejected. The bacteria that cause this disease are not considered dangerous to humans. Therefore, bread is being baked from infected wheat. But it can be eaten only when fresh. In just 24 hours the soft part of the bread infected with "potato disease" becomes sticky, and when it is being broken up it stretches with sticky threads and smells bad.

On 10 August Vologda grain suppliers, millers, and bakers assembled at a big meeting: What are they to do with the 11,000 tonnes of infected wheat? Here are the most typical opinions from the minutes.

Vologda TsSM [expansion unknown] Inspector L. Mastryukova: The population needs information on storing bread.

Vologda Bread Combine Chief Engineer A. Polzikov: All stores have been briefed on the use of bread. I believe that additional information should not be given because bread production would be reduced. If the population is informed it should be done very concisely.

V. Kuzin, chief of the oblast administration interregional ties department: The wheat can be processed and the population should be informed about bread storage only gently so as not to frighten the people.

In the upshot the conference decided to inform Vologda inhabitants about how to deal with bread infected with "potato disease" through the trade network. Provided, of course, people decide to buy it. I familiarized myself with documents from this conference at the beginning of September. No way could I recall the bakery which I visited every day having warned me even once of "potato disease" in bread. To get a correct picture, I went around to all stores in the center of Vologda that have bakery sections, including two direct sale bakeries — the Vologda Bread Combine and the "Slavyanskiy Khleb" joint-stock company (these enterprises' leaderships participated in the conference). Nowhere was there even the smallest notice about how to use infected bread without harming one's health.

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Seeks Resolution of Rybinsk Aircraft Issue

LD1409191795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1743 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 14 (INTERFAX) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin told the government to sort out the situation in the Rybinsk-based Rybinskiye Motory company, one of the largest aircraft engine factories in the country.

In response to a letter that numerous chairmen of State Duma committees had sent to him, Yeltsin told Prime

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Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to analyze the arguments offered by committee chairmen and report back to him on what should be done about this factory which is very important for Russia.

A government reply is being drafted in the Federal Insolvency Board. Board secretary Yuriy Kutler told INTERFAX that the reply will be in favor of selling the state-owned shares of Rybinskiye Motory, to which the State Duma chairmen object.

The government had earlier decided to sell its 37% stock in Rybinskiye Motory as a single package so as to attract investments to the factory declared insolvent by the FIB last spring.

Government experts pin their hopes for restoring the solvency of the factory and expanding its production on a joint venture co-founded by Gazprom, the Russian gas monopoly. Factory shares would be sold to Gazprom under this arrangement.

On the other hand, the Russian State Committee on Defense Industries, the Rybinskiye Motory managers and the Yaroslavl region leaders object to selling the shares to Gazprom, fearing that the factory will end the production of aircraft engines and the country's defense capability will deteriorate.

Chubays Blames Finance Ministry for Mine Cash Delay

MM1309134795 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 12 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Rustem Tell under the "Strikes" rubric: "Who Is Putting a Match to a Fire"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The strike by miners at the "Gukovugol" joint-stock company has once again confirmed a typical feature of our economy — uncontrollability. As S. Tsybko, chief of the "Rosugol" enterprises administration for economic regulation and state support, told the editorial office, at a meeting last Friday with Government First Deputy Chairman A. Chubays, Anatoliy Borisovich reacted in a very negative way to the work of the Ministry of Finance. And this is why:

It has emerged that money from the state budget for subsidies to the miners has been lying around at the Ministry of Finance since 17 August. And it was only 1 September, before the weekend, that instructions were issued by the department to the Bank for Foreign Economic Activity [Vneshekonombank] to transfer 240 billion rubles [R] to the miners. By then, because of the delay in the payment of wages, the situation at the "Gukovugol" joint-stock company had already heated up. "This kind of sluggish behavior, through your fault, is costing us all a great deal," Chubays reproached First Deputy Finance Minister Petrov.

But so what if he did reproach him? Two-thirds of September has gone by, and the situation is being repeated. This month the coal miners are supposed to receive an R818 billion subsidy from the budget. Not a single ruble has been received yet. We are putting out the fire in one place, S. Tsybko commented, and lighting it in another place. It is hard to disagree with this assessment.

Committee Compares 1994/1995 GDP Percentages

LD1409154995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Sept 14 (INTERFAX) — Russia's GDP in the eight months prior to September dropped by 4% compared with the same period last year reaching a total of 890 trillion rubles, officials of the government statistical committee told INTERFAX. It dropped by 12% in 1994.

GDP rose by 3% in August compared with the previous month, but fell by 1% compared with the same indicator in August 1994.

Real incomes shrank by 11% compared with the same period in 1994 when these increased by 14% on the year before. There was a 129% rise in average monthly wages to a 389% rise in the same period last year. But real earnings dropped by 29% (by 10% in 1994).

Unemployment figures stood at 5.7 million by the end of August, up 6% on the same period last year, but only 2.1 million of those unemployed were officially registered, up 52% on the same period in 1994. The number of people living below the subsistence level in August ran at 39.4 million (27% of the country's total), or 11% down on the month before.

Economic Analyst Predicts Banking 'Crisis'

MM1409102995 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Sep 95 p 1

[Report from "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" column: "Expert Predicts New Banking Crisis"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The crisis on the Russian interbank credit market that erupted in August was caused by subjective reasons of an administrative nature, Andrey Illarionov, director of the Institute of Economic Analysis, believes. "The Russian banking system still has to experience a real crisis," he stated on Wednesday at a press conference in Moscow. Such a "real crisis" will be generated by objective changes in the economic

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situation and primarily by financial stabilization which will require the banking system's transition to "a qualitatively new level" of work, the expert noted.

Turnover Nearly Doubles at Commodity Exchanges

MM1409125195 Moscow IZVESTIYA (Financial Section) in Russian 14 Sep 95 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Commodity Exchanges' Turnover Has Almost Doubled"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the first half of the year, the sale of production and technical output and consumer goods was carried out at 93 Russian commodity and commodity and stock exchanges. Some 32 percent of the total number of exchanges now in operation are in the Central Economic Region (22 percent in Moscow), 11 percent are in the Volga region, 10 percent in the Urals region, and 8 percent in the Central Chernozem region. Turnover in prices actually in operation in the first half of the year was 856 billion rubles. That is 184 percent of the exchanges' turnover for the same period last year.

Financial-Industrial Group, Industrial Group Merge

MM1409123595 Moscow IZVESTIYA (Financial Section) in Russian 14 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by N. Trubkina: "'Interros' Financial-Industrial Group Creates Holding Company with 'Mikrodin'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "Interros" financial-industrial group and the "Mikrodin" industrial group have decided to merge. On their basis a holding company will be created which will unite the industrial potential and financial opportunities of the "Interros" financial-industrial group and "Mikrodin's" management potential. The nucleus of the "Interros" interstate group consists of the "ONEKSIMbank" and "International Financial Company" banks. Considering this fact it may be said that it is a case of the merging process of the "ONEKSIMbank" financial system and the "Mikrodin" industrial group. In addition the "Interros" financial-industrial group includes the "Irgiz" and "Fosfori" petrochemical enterprises, the "Norilskiy Nikel" joint-stock company, the Kuznetsk metallurgical combine, and other enterprises of export-oriented industries. The "Mikrodin" joint-stock company engages actively in investments in industry, being the co-owner of enterprises like "Permskiye motory" and the "ZIL" joint-stock company.

IZVESTIYA Reports Imports Volume Increase

MM1409121795 Moscow IZVESTIYA (Financial Section) in Russian 14 Sep 95 p 1

[AYeN report: "Volume of Russian Imports Has Increased"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Over the first eight months of 1995, the volume of Russian imports has increased nearly 15 percent compared with the same period last year and has reached a sum in excess of $27 billion. Imports of machinery and equipment rose 36.7 percent to $7.5 billion (including an increase of 52.7 percent in imports from the far abroad — to $6.2 billion). Meat imports rose 26.7 percent to 31,100 tonnes, wheat imports rose 47.2 percent, butter imports rose 34.8 percent to 141,200 tonnes, and sunflower oil imports increased by a factor of three or four — to 127,400 tonnes. Imports of grain and sugar were 55 percent and 100 percent respectively of last year's level. Imports of citrus fruit, medical supplies, coffee, and cigarettes fell somewhat. Imports of alcoholic drinks from the countries of the far abroad decreased by 18 percent while there was an increase in their import from CIS countries.

Caspian Oil Pipeline Project To Be Implemented

MK1509080095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 14 Sep 95 p 4

[ANI report: "The Russian Federation Government Has Given Instructions To Have All Documents on the Caspian Pipeline Consortium Prepared by 15 September"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Government has instructed the Fuel and Energy Ministry, with the participation of the "Rosneft" state enterprise and the "Transneft" joint-stock company, jointly with the Caspian Pipeline Consortium [CPC], to take measures to implement the first stage of the CPC project, envisioning the construction of an oil pipeline between Tikhoretsk (Krasnodar Kray) and Novorossiysk (Russian Black Sea coast). In accordance with governmental Directive No. 1244-r of 6 September 1995, Russian federal agencies and the "Rosneft" state enterprise

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should hold negotiations with the consortium before 15 September and work out a document that will guarantee delivery of no less than 9 million tonnes of raw oil per year via the CPC pipeline network, with payments according to the market rate. By the same date, the Russian Fuel and Energy Ministry, the Finance Ministry, and "Rosneft" should coordinate with the Kazakhstani Government the question of guaranteed deliveries, via the CPC network, of 4.5 million tonnes of Kazakhstani oil per year, with payments according to the market rate. In addition, the document binds "Transneft" to hold negotiations with the CPC before 15 September 1995 and to work out an agreement on having the pipeline networks of the CPC and "Transneft" linked to pump up to 15 million tonnes of oil per year to the place where the CPC network starts.

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International Affairs

Ukraine Begins Political Dialogue With NATO

LD1409123495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1129 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Aleksandr Mineyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Brussels, September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — NATO and Ukraine began a political dialogue today according to the "sixteen plus one" formula. Until recently Russia was the only one of the 26 member states of the Partnership For Peace programme, which was given that privilege. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Heandiy Udovenko, who arrived in Brussels, had a meeting with NATO Secretary-General Willy Claes and attended a session of the NATO Council together with representatives of 16 NATO countries, which was held behind closed doors. A ceremony of the adoption of Ukraine's individual programme within the framework of the Partnership For Peace programme. [sentence as received]

The programme envisages the holding of joint military exercises, the assistance in the training of personnel, the exchange of experience of peacekeeping operations, assistance in the development of democratic control over the Ukrainian armed forces etc. Ukraine has been one of the most active participants in the Partnership For Peace programme since the beginning of its implementation. It took part in most military exercises, held within the framework of the programme, and once even provided its territory for it. Russia took part only in one naval exercise.

According to a joint communique, members of the NATO Council and the Ukrainian minister, who attended the "sixteen plus one" meeting, "deeply analysed problems, connected with the strengthening of European security" and stressed their desire to "strengthen relations both within the framework of the Partnership For Peace programme and outside it." The Ukrainian side made special mention of NATO's contribution to the creation of an atmosphere of confidence in the Euroatlantic region "along with profound respect for the territorial integrity, the existing borders and the rights of national minorities." Kiev expressed the desire to welcome in Ukraine a NATO delegation, which would brief the Ukrainian leadership on methods and terms of NATO's expansion to the east.

'16 Plus 1' Talks Open in Brussels

LD1409154495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1422 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Aleksandr Mineyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Brussels, September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — The North Atlantic Alliance and Ukraine today began their "16 plus 1" political dialogue. Earlier only Russia out of 26 member-countries of the NATO programme "Partnership for Peace" had been granted this privilege. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Heanadiy Udovenko arrived in Brussels for the meeting with NATO Secretary- General Willy Claes and then took part in a meeting behind closed doors of the NATO Council together with the Ambassadors of 16 member-countries of the Alliance.

Before the opening of the NATO Council meeting, a ceremony was held to adopt Ukraine's individual programme within the framework of the "Partnership for Peace" programme.

The Programme provides for joint army exercises, personnel training, and exchange of peacekeeping experience, as well as assistance in the development of democratic control over the Ukrainian armed forces.

Ukraine has been one of the most active participants in the NATO programme since the very beginning of its implementation. It has participated in most military exercises which were conducted within the framework of the programme, and even permitted the exercises to be held on its territory, whereas Russia has only taken part once, in a naval exercise.

During the "16 plus 1" meeting, the members of the NATO council and the Ukrainian Minister conducted "an in-depth analysis of problems relating to the strengthening of European Security," stressed their desire to "develop relations both within the framework of the "Partnership for Peace" programme and beyond," the parties said in a joint communique.

The NATO Secretary-General said in his speech that the Alliance and Ukraine would exchange visits of their high officials and hold consultations, including under the "16 plus 1" format on the most important issues of mutual interest, which include European security

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architecture, prevention and settlement of crises, nuclear security, non-proliferation of mass destruction weapons and disarmament.

Claes stressed that NATO attached "key importance to its relations with sovereign, independent and democratic Ukraine and its place in a new European architecture of security and cooperation."

Ukraine made a special note of NATO's contribution to the creation of an atmosphere of confidence in the Euro-Atlantic region with its "respect for territorial integrity, existing borders and the rights of national minorities."

Minister Udovenko recalled that Ukraine was the first CIS country to sign the "Partnership for Peace" programme. "We are open to cooperation with NATO and Europe in building a single and indivisible system of European Security," the Minister said. He then stressed that the development of good relations between NATO and Russia was in the interests of Ukraine.

Kiev expressed the desire to receive a delegation from NATO to inform Ukraine about the results of NATO's "internal discussion" of procedures and terms of its Eastward enlargement.

Asked about Kiev's view on the NATO enlargement plan, the Minister said Ukraine itself had no plans for joining the alliance in the foreseeable future but it had no right to veto its neighbours accession to the North-Atlantic alliance. "It is important for the Ukrainian national interests to be taken into consideration in the process of expanding NATO. We would not like to become a buffer state between an enlarged NATO and the Tashkent Security Treaty," he said.

Agreement With NATO To Step Up Contacts

LD1409195995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1706 GMT 14 Sep 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Brussels, Sept 14 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE) — Ukraine and NATO have agreed to step up their contacts, NATO headquarters reports.

An agreement to this effect was reached between Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko and NATO Secretary General Willy Claes in Brussels.

Udovenko attended the North Atlantic Council meeting on September 14 and presented a draft of the Ukraine-NATO cooperation program.

The NATO headquarters says in an official report that the cooperation will include exchange of top level visits, in particular a visit to Kiev by the NATO secretary general.

Consultations will be held continuously between Ukraine and NATO at various levels on the European security, prevention of conflicts, peace missions, nuclear safety, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, disarmament and arms control.

Ukraine will step up its activities in the framework of the Partnership for Peace program and the North Atlantic Council.

Ukraine invited Thursday a team of NATO experts to visit Kiev to present their findings on the issue of NATO enlargement.

In the discussion held in Brussels on September 14, NATO expressed support for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, territorial unity. Economic reforms and democratic changes. It was said that an independent, democratic and stable Ukraine is a key factor of stability and security in Europe.

The North Atlantic Council also took note of the significant contribution made by Ukraine to the UN peacekeeping operations, notably in the former Yugoslavia. NATO also welcomes Ukraine's efforts to resolve peacefully all the issues in its relations with its neighbors, the NATO headquarters report says.

To reach the political aims of the NATO Partnership for Peace program, Ukraine is working for openness in defense planning and budget-making, securing democratic control over the Armed Forces, and expanding military relations with NATO with the purpose of joint planning and training. Thus reads part of the presentation document of Ukraine's cooperation program with NATO submitted to a special session of the North Atlantic Council in Brussels Thursday.

The Ukrainian delegation is led by Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko.

In keeping with the document, the Partnership for Peace program involves on the Ukrainian side an operational group of generals and officers, two peace-keeping battalions and an airborne landing battalion, a squadron of Ilyushin-76 transport planes and a squadron of MI-8 helicopters with crews, two ships, and a motorized civil defense brigade. Ukraine will also offer two test sites for exercises.

Ukraine signed a framework cooperation agreement on February 8, 1994, and handed the presentation document to the NATO leadership on May 25.

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A senior Ukrainian Foreign Ministry official told INTERFAX-UKRAINE that Kiev finds the Partnership for Peace program a timely and promising step that should not draw new dividing lines in Europe. It will allow all interested sides to take practical political and military steps.

"Ukraine also believes that the Partnership for Peace program is a key mechanism of maintaining peace in Europe," the diplomat added.

Cooperation Agreement With NATO

LD1409204095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1646 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Brussels, Sept 14 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE) — Ukraine and NATO agreed to expand their cooperation beyond the framework of the Partnership for Peace program, NATO Secretary General Willy Claes told a news conference in Brussels Thursday [14 September]. The news conference followed a NATO meeting where an individual program of NATO-Ukrainian cooperation was presented.

A member of the Ukrainian delegation told INTERFAX-UKRAINE that the meeting focused on widening bilateral consultations on political and military issues related to security in Europe and the whole world.

Ukrainian First Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Tarasyuk told INTERFAX-UKRAINE that "Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko spoke of expanding cooperation beyond the limits of the Partnership for Peace program at the Brussels meeting."

Tarasyuk described the presentation as an "important step in the development of NATO-Ukrainian relations." It is especially important now when NATO is about to end the discussion on its enlargement, he added.

"In this situation, when Ukraine has not expressed its desire to join the North Atlantic alliance due to its legislatively fixed non-alignment status, it was necessary to define how NATO-Ukrainian relations will be built under new conditions," Tarasyuk said. "This is what happened in Brussels on September 14," he stated.

NATO Seeks To Integrate PFP Into Interactive System

LD1409211895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1815 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Sept 14 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE) — NATO seeks to integrate the countries participating in its Partnership for Peace [PFP] program into a joint interactive system, NATO Supreme Commander in Central Europe Hans Hansen told a news conference in Kiev Thursday [14 September].

"This is why the aim of our visit is to outline a program for such combined activities," Hansen said. He added that a delegation of the NATO General Staff will soon visit Ukraine "to develop specific activities within this cooperation together with the Ukrainian military."

According to Hansen, "NATO has a very clear understanding of Ukraine's role in European security and therefore is willing to widen its contacts, including those with Ukraine's armed forces."

However, "the question is not of Ukraine joining NATO, but only strengthening contacts within the framework of the Partnership for Peace program," he added.

Ukrainian Chief of Staff, Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Lopata [name and title as received] told the same news conference that "Ukraine planned to open up and deepen its cooperation with NATO."

According to Lopata, the ongoing bilateral talks discussed "strategic issues on NATO's further peace efforts in former Yugoslavia."

Asked about his attitude to strikes against the Bosnian Serbs around Sarajevo, Lopata said: "I do not support methods of conflict settlement using force, including in Yugoslavia."

At the same time, he remarked that "anyone else is unlikely to propose another solution to this complicated and prolonged problem."

Lopata suggested that Ukraine could deploy another peacekeeping battalion in former Yugoslavia and send more cargo planes if need be.

Marchuk: Partnership Does Not Mean Joining NATO

LD1409190595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1817 GMT 14 Sep 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: No 176 (920); compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The individual partnership program of Ukraine with NATO does not mean that the country is joining the military alliance, Prime-Minister Yevheniy Marchuk declared during a visit to an international health protection exhibition in Kiev Wednesday [13 September].

He confirmed the status of Ukraine as a non-aligned country saying that the main thing for it is not to become a buffer between NATO and what is not NATO. IF

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Note: The North Atlantic Council held a special session in Brussels Thursday at ambassador level attended by a Ukrainian delegation with Foreign Minister Henadiy Udovenko as its leader. The individual partnership program was presented before the session. On February 8, 1994 Ukraine signed a framework Partnership for Peace agreement with NATO and on May 25, 1994 submitted the presentation document to the NATO leadership. Immediately after that Kiev started working on the individual partnership program.

On the situation in ex-Yugoslavia, NATO air attacks on Bosnian Serbs in particular, Marchuk said that whatever the reasons bombing is not the best policy.

He also felt that Ukraine must very carefully analyze everything happening in ex-Yugoslavia, NATO, Russia before changing its attitude to NATO.

The prime-minister also said that his meeting with his Russian counterpart on the division of the Black Sea Fleet will not take place before the end of the month.

According to Marchuk, the Ukrainian side suggested that the experts of the two countries meet to update the draft agreements on the principles of mutual settlements and the city of Sevastopol. "One should not waste time on the discussion of questions undecided even by experts," the prime-minister believes.

Kuchma, Russian Envoy on Nuclear Aid to Iran

TA1409123595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Sep 95 p A5

["Exclusive" report by Aluf Ben, "accompanying the prime minister on his CIS tour"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kiev — [passage omitted] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday met with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma who spoke about Ukraine's determination to maintain its independence. "Our main problem is economic, and we are expecting international assistance."

In the conversation, Kuchma attacked Russia, saying: "Regrettably we have so-called friends who oppose Ukrainian independence." He made clear that he intends to assume a pro-American policy. "We are glad that the United States supports our reform processes in many ways, which include money," he said. He suggested tripartite Ukrainian-Israeli-U.S. cooperation, saying that Israel has a vested interest in maintaining "a strong and stable" Ukraine.

The Ukrainian president explained that his country depends on Iranian oil supplies because the Russians are making selling cheap oil to Ukraine very difficult. At the same time, he said, Ukrainian-Iranian ties are purely civilian, and there will be no military cooperation. Earlier, Rabin's hosts had told him that Russia has offered to have Ukraine take part in its nuclear deal with Iran, but that the offer was rejected.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 14 September publishes on page 13 a similar report by Ben Kaspit which quotes the Ukrainian president as telling Rabin that "the Russian Mafia will in no way lay its hands on nuclear weapons and sell them to Iran. The nuclear warheads in Ukraine are fully supervised and in safe hands."

[A related report from Washington by 'Aqiva Eldar on the same page of the HA'ARETZ edition quotes "a senior diplomat in the Russian Embassy in Washington," speaking before "the Jewish-American Committee," as saying that "Russian Government experts who examined secret intelligence information President Bill Clinton relayed to Boris Yeltsin regarding Iranian nuclear procurement plans, found the information 'unconvincing.'" The Russian diplomat further said that since "Russia has no reason to fear that Iran will abuse the reactors," "his government will not cancel the deal."]

Marchuk Cited on Black Sea Fleet, NATO, Bosnia

LD1409124295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1048 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Sept 14 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE) — Top level Ukrainian-Russian talks on apportioning the Black Sea Fleet will take place no sooner than late September, Ukraine's Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk declared in Kiev on Wednesday [13 September].

According to him, before such talks, Ukrainian and Russian experts should meet to put the final touches to the draft accords on the principles of settling accounts and on Sevastopol's status.

"We should not waste time on matters that have not even been looked at by experts yet," Marchuk said

He reiterated Ukraine's nonaligned status and stressed that its subscription to an individual program of partnership with NATO on Thursday, "least of all means Ukraine's membership in the military alliance."

"The main thing for Ukraine is not to become a buffer between those who belong to NATO and those who don't," he stressed.

On the Bosnian conflict, Marchuk declared: "Anyway, whatever reasons could be cited, air strikes are not the best answer. Ukraine should very carefully analyze what is happening in former Yugoslavia, NATO, and Russia before changing its attitude toward NATO."

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Black Sea Fleet 'Key Stumbling Block' to Disarmament

WS1509093595 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0222 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Sep 14 — The unresolved status of the Black Sea Fleet will delay fulfillment of key former Soviet states' commitment to reduce conventional arms later this year, Oleksandr Bolychevtsev, chief of the Foreign Ministry's arms control and dismantling department, announced Thursday [14 September].

Bolychevtsev, who headed the Ukrainian delegation at a Minsk meeting of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan disarmament officials, said upon his return to Kiev Thursday evening that the four FSU countries would be unable to reduce their conventional arms to levels they had previously pledged to meet by Nov. 17.

"As soon as the BSF is resolved, additional conventional arms agreements will be implemented in compliance with the Tashkent Treaty," Bolychevtsev said, noting that all the participants in the Minsk gathering agreed that problem of how to divide the fleet, which is presently under the joint possession of Ukraine and Russia, was the "key stumbling block" to fulfillment of the conventional arms agreement.

According to the Ukrainian representative, after dismantling arms, Ukraine will keep 680 tanks, 350 armored personnel carriers and 790 other heavy weapons. This would necessitate a reduction of 1,974 tanks, 1,545 armored personal carriers and 550 combat aircraft.

In addition, according to the 1992 Tashkent treaty, Ukraine is supposed to reduce the 271 tanks, 749 personnel armored carriers and 208 other heavy weapons currently deployed in its territory as part of the coast guard and marines supporting the BSF.

Support Pledged For Solution in Dniester Republic

LD1409111695 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0810 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — In a conversation with Moldovan President Mircea Snegur, Volodymyr Furkalo, plenipotentiary representative of the Ukrainian president at the negotiations on regulating the problem in the Dniester Republic, which began in Chisinau on 13 September, gave assurances from Leonid Kuchma that Ukraine will make every effort to promote a just solution to the problem of the Dniester Republic. UNIAN learned of this at the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At the negotiations Ukraine proceeds from the fact that the presence of joint borders between Moldova and the large Ukrainian community in the Dniester Republic as well as the transit through Ukraine of the Russian 14th Army calls forth Ukraine's participation in the peaceful regulation of the region.

The talks concentrated on the ways in which Ukraine could provide guarantees to support peace and security in the region.

Leftist Parties Picket U.S. Embassy Over NATO Raids

LD1409174795 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1620 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — The new bloc of left-wing parties and movements in Kiev and Kiev Region has picketed the U.S. embassy in the Ukrainian capital to protest NATO air raids on Bosnian Serb positions. The protest, organized by the Communist and Socialist parties, the Union of Communists of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks, the Lenin Communist League of Ukrainian Youth, and the Union of Working Women for the Future of Ukrainian Children, was also joined by the Civic Congress of Ukraine and the Party of Slavic Unity.

The picketers condemned the NATO air strikes and demanded immediate cessation of what they described as unprovoked aggression in the Balkans. The bloc insists that Ukraine should suspend its cooperation with NATO.

National Affairs

'Anti-Ukrainian Ideas' of Kuchma Team Viewed

WS1509084095 Kiev VECHIRNIY KYYIV in Ukrainian 12 Sep 95 p 1

[Article by VECHIRNIY KYYIV Chief Editor Vitaliy Karpenko: "Who Poses the Greatest Threat to Ukraine?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Do not rush to name Russia, because this is only partially true. Despite the dramatic nature of Ukrainian-Russian relations (which, as we know, is not our fault), the greatest threat to Ukraine as a sovereign and independent state does not come from the east. Neither does it come from the west, the south, or the north.... It looks as if the greatest and quite real threat to Ukraine's independence comes from the *inside*, from our current leadership, our top officials led by President Leonid Kuchma. This opinion is prompted by the domestic and foreign policies pursued by the president, who is surrounded by a Ukrainophobic retinue. I am going to cite facts, bare facts in order not to sound lightweight.

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Constant concessions to Russia do not seem to be solely the result of *economic and military pressure* on Russia's part (although this kind of pressure exists), but are also *deliberate policies* conducted by Ukraine's supreme state authority. It was our president, and nobody else, who ratified with his signature the agreement establishing the Interstate Economic Committee, which is a kind of a supranational body within the framework of the CIS, and in which Russia holds the dominating position (50 percent of the votes). It was Kuchma who agreed with Russia to have a joint system of air defense, thus placing Ukraine under the control of the Grachevs and other individuals of his kind, and trampling on the Ukrainian Supreme Council's resolution proclaiming Ukraine a *nonbloc state*. In addition, negotiations are under way — and perhaps have been completed by now — on creating commercial organizations for transporting gas, following which gas pipelines and storage facilities on Ukraine's territory will be virtually handed over to the Russian side, while Russia's contribution to those organizations amounts to *the interest* (how do you like that?) on Ukraine's gas debts. Meanwhile, the gas debt affair has not been sorted out yet. Finally, there are the negotiations on the Black Sea Fleet, in the course of which we handed over what belonged to Ukraine and threw in Sevastopol as part of the bargain. Russia's dissatisfaction with the fleet negotiations is more pretense than real and is meant to deceive the public.

The other side of the coin is *our servility toward our northern neighbor*, our obsequiousness, and satellite-like nodding whatever the reason. When the bloody genocide began in Chechnya, our diplomats regarded this as Russia's exclusively internal affair. However, when the west, under the pressure of public opinion, took a tougher stance, then also our diplomats gently, as if God forbid they should make the "older brother" angry, expressed their concern. When Russia opposed the bombing of Serbian positions by NATO aircraft, then our diplomats also said right away: "We, so to speak, are also concerned about it...." At the celebration of the USSR's national "Artek" children's camp in Crimea, our president behaved there as if he was a poor speechless relative and not the host.

As for the language, this is another issue. *There is no nation without a language, there is no statehood without a language*. It seems that everyone understands this. Both the tsarist and the Soviet empires, after conquering foreign territories, first of all Russified the nations on those territories to strengthen their rule. Ukraine shared the same fate. The proclamation of sovereignty seems to have been the turning-point — the native language began its rebirth. However, it was not a long-lasting process. Currently, unlike at any time in the past, the process of de-Ukrainization has begun. Immediately after the elections, President Kuchma lavishly stated that he intended to make Russian an official language, while Ukrainian, so to speak, would become the national language. He disregarded the fact that "official language" means national language. And there we are: What the president expressed as a wish, began to be implemented; Russian once again began to push out the native language from universities, colleges, schools, and kindergartens. Go for a walk along the corridors of the Cabinet of Ministers' office — the easily understood language is present everywhere. Go to the Presidential Administration office — the same picture. The Ukrainian language is only a sham — for conversations with foreign diplomats and representatives of the diaspora, while the "older brother's" language is for everyday use. Look at the signs in Kiev — the majority of them are in foreign languages: English or Russian. Look at the names of squares and streets: Leninski, Artem, Kosior, Vorovskiy, Menzhynskiy, and the like. Where do we live, in what kind of reservation?

All in all, *the anti-Ukrainian nature* of our president and the executive branch headed by him is coming out into the daylight. These are the facts. The course toward reform, which Kuchma has announced to reap political dividends in foreign fields, is being observed, but the reforms are being implemented very slowly, and *at the expense of the nation*, however *not for the sake of the nation*. There is no need to cite any proof: Have a look in your own purses, look at the prices and everything will become clear to you. We were not allowed to bury *Ukrainian Patriarch* Volodymyr on the soil of *the Ukrainian Saint Sofiya*, for we were told that it is a holy place. Excuse me, but how hypocritical one has to be to say such a lie to his own nation. Our paper has already unmasked the great lie about Kiev's Sofia being a site of international significance, and about the need to obtain UNESCO's permission for the burial. After all, if the president cares so much about historic sites, why then did he begin building a four-story "house for himself" with underground concrete garages on ... a historic piece of land in the center of the city.

Another fact: According to the press, chauvinistic forces in St. Petersburg are hampering the erection of a Taras Shevchenko monument, a gift from the diaspora — and our officials have not breathed a word, as if they were mute; and what is more, President Kuchma has ignored the appeal of St. Petersburg Mayor Sobchak, who personally asked the president for Ukraine to become involved in the sacred issue that the erection of a monument to Kobzar [Taras Shevchenko] is. What else can we say if the president has already managed

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to make us happy by generalizing that allegedly *the national idea has failed* in Ukraine. The point is not that the idea has failed, but that high officials headed by the selfsame president *do not want to serve the national idea*, since they promote anti-Ukrainian ideas. This is the reason.

We could continue the list of facts, but apparently enough has been said to see that in our state *a quiet, but progressive onslaught against everything resembling Ukrainian has been launched*. This has been done at state level, too. With the president's blessing, or maybe, to be more specific, with the blessing of the presidential retinue. However, the president has himself selected the people for his team. He still does. The first administrator of Dnepropetrovsk, Mr. Lazarenko, was one of the first people who opposed the idea of switching the Russian Public Television channel onto the second channel, and renewed the retransmission of Russian programs — at the expense of the local budget — on Ukraine's main channel. Do you think the president was angry? Like hell he was. He called Lazarenko to Kiev and appointed him first deputy prime minister — how do you like that! Are we going to silently wait for the introduction of Dnepropetrovsk-like order in the capital?

As a well-known classical Marxist once said: Facts are very stubborn things. Therefore, they demonstrate that *Ukraine's greatest threat comes not from abroad, but is essentially domestic*. We would be able to perform any international tasks, resolve the most difficult problems if only we had nationally aware officials of a patriotic orientation who would serve Ukraine and the Ukrainian nation. When will this happen? Perhaps never, if we are only *waiting* and *doing* nothing about it.

I do expect some response to this article from the circles of power. However, none of the aforementioned facts has been invented by me. I may have drawn the conclusions that you have read, but then you take those facts and try to draw other conclusions....

Procuracy Dissolves Sevastopol 'Russian Community'

MK1509075895 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 13 Sep 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "'Russian Community' Has Been Completely Dissolved..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Community of Sevastopol [RCS] has been forcibly dissolved because of its pro-Russian activities.

The joy of Sevastopol residents at the fact that the status of the Russian Black Sea Fleet's main base has been conferred on their city turned out to be premature. The Sevastopol prosecutor's office decided that status as the Black Sea Fleet's main base does not mean that the city belongs to Russia and issued a decree on forcibly dissolving the community "for the sake of state interests" (this is what the prosecutor's office statement says). The tragic fate befell the RCS because it "stirred up interethnic strife." This activity manifested itself in the fact that the society submitted to city council deputies "a proposal that they step up their efforts to implement the decision of 23 August 1994 that they (city council deputies) made on Sevastopol's Russian status." That is to say, the RCS members chauvinistically forced the deputies to comply with decisions that they themselves had made. But the "strife was stirred up" even more when the Russian community assisted a consular group of the Russian Embassy in Ukraine in coming to the city and organized the "illegal activity of registering city residents' Russian citizenship." What is completely impermissible is that the RCS "distributed documentary materials giving reasons for Sevastopol's being part of Russia." Presumably, the reasons were absolutely unjustified in historical terms, for which reason the community was punished.

Kravchuk Criticizes Kiev for Annulling UNA's Registration

LD1409161595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Sept 14 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE) — The Ukrainian Justice Ministry exceeded its authority when it annulled the registration of the Ukrainian National Assembly (UNA), former president Leonid Kravchuk told a news conference in Kiev Wednesday [13 September].

On September 6 the Justice Ministry annulled the registration of the ultranationalist organization because its activities contradicted Ukrainian law.

In Kravchuk's opinion, "the matter should have been settled lawfully through court or the self-dissolution of the organization".

He stressed that such a precedent is dangerous because it makes it possible to ban any political group unsuitable for the government for one reason or another.

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Report on Embezzlement Within Armed Forces

WS1409130395 Lvov MOLODA HALYCHYNA in Ukrainian 7 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Oksana Hutsul: "Ukrainian Armed Forces Privates and Even Officers... Were Building Houses as Feudal Labor"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to Petro Kozyr [chief of the Main Control and Audit Inspectorate], the main anguish and shame of the Ukrainian Army is feudal labor.

Until recently, when visiting the village of Berezan in the vicinity of Kiev, people could see a large dacha rising to the sky — it had as many as 36 windows. The owner of the beautiful building, Colonel Shvets, served in the Boryspil garrison. When members of the Control and Audit Inspectorate arrived in the village, nine servicemen were working there. After the visit, Col. Shvets was released from the Armed Forces, and the Prosecutor's Office pressed criminal charges against him.

The inspection team also found a general, senior adviser at one of the key General Staff directorates, doing unofficial work. Soldiers were building a house for the general in Horenychi. He no longer serves at the General Staff....

The work of military enlistment offices is also within the Main Control and Audit Inspectorate's purview (according to Petro Kozyr, there are also opportunities for activity in these offices. It is hard to overestimate the services provided by military enlistment office employees during the draft. Parents are ready to do anything to make their children's service life easier, and servicemen — to improve their own budget at the expense of the parents).

"How the Army is robbed when units are disbanded," Col. Kozyr repentantly shakes his head. "How much state property is being pilfered! How much precious metal is being extracted by cunning people. A number of private companies are currently making deals on the precious metal stolen from military units."

Precious metal worth 22 billion karbovantsi [K] has been registered thanks to the inspectorate's efforts.

Here are some more statistics. In 1995, the inspectorate has conducted 150 inspections in all Ukrainian regions. The results of these inspections are as follows: K8.5 billion has been returned to the Defense Ministry's coffers, and 110 servicemen have been indicted.

Of course, these statistics are a drop in the ocean of embezzlement. The social protection group of the Main Control and Audit Inspectorate could also be termed a drop in the ocean. The group monitors the observance of housing legislation by servicemen, and detects unauthorized activities. The group comprises as many as... three people.

"We do not work systematically, but like firefighters — when we are dispatched," group chief Col Vyacheslav Ihnatushyn confesses.

Of course, this style of work results in scandals, for example, the illegal acquisition of housing by civilians — high-ranking officials — in the so-called "Turkish town" in Kiev built with German money by Turkish constructors for servicemen from the former western group of troops in Germany. Officers even did not seek protection from the Main Control and Audit Inspectorate, but seized the apartments themselves.

Our servicemen, unfortunately, have already managed to create an unattractive image even in the international arena. As far back as a year ago, the Russian press reported on embezzlement in the Ukrainian peacekeeping battalion deployed in the hottest spot in former Yugoslavia — Sarajevo. Ukraine, however, explained it all away by saying it was the neighbors' malevolence. Then suddenly, President Kuchma received a letter from a UN representative about illegal things taking place in the 240th Ukrainian peacekeeping battalion. Since then, Petro Kozyr has visited Sarajevo several times. Here are his conclusions:

"We knew the situation was bad in the 240th battalion. We did not think, however, that it was this bad. For one person a war means tragedy and suffering, and for another — business. The Ukrainian peacekeeping battalion commanders tried to make profit out of the war by selling out the subunit's property. The crooked commanders have recently been released. Our servicemen, however, will suffer moral losses for a long time."

So far, the Main Control and Audit Inspectorate staff are far from threatened with unemployment. The phenomenon of confusing one's own pocket with that of the state has proved to be too viable. The Army, which should theoretically serve as an example of discipline and order, unfortunately is no exception.

New Crimean Constitution Will Be 'Difficult Process'

WS1509100795 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0222 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, Sep 14 — Approving the Crimean Constitution will be a difficult process, according to Dmytro Stepanyuk, Ukrainian parliamentary deputy, who arrived in Simferopol for a panel meet-

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ing of the Crimean Parliament Constitutional Committee.

The meeting was also attended by Ukrainian Parliament lawyers.

Stepanyuk said the sides had not yet smoothed differences in their approaches toward certain sections of the constitution.

Ukrainian negotiators are insisting the constitution should include three sections: foundations of the constitutional system of Crimea, Crimea's functions and the organization of state and local governments.

The Crimean side said it is mainly concerned about the procedure and guarantees of final approval by the Ukrainian legislature.

Stepanyuk said that the Crimean constitution will be approved only if three conditions are fulfilled. First, Crimea's status should be brought into line with the terms of the constitutional agreement signed by President Leonid Kuchma and Parliament. The agreement envisages that the autonomous republic is an integral part of Ukraine. Second, jurisdiction between the Crimean legislature and the state's executive branch should be clearly divided. Finally, Crimean law enforcement bodies should be subordinated to Kiev.

"The constitution's approval will be extremely difficult. If the approval fails, Kiev would be forced to review the problem again and conduct new elections to the Crimean Parliament," Stepanyuk said.

Economic Issues

World Bank Examines Progress of Privatization Program

WS1509100895 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0222 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Sep 14 — Progress in Ukraine's privatization program captured the attention of participants at Thursday's [14 September] World Bank roundtable, highlighted by the fact that only 30 percent of a planned 8,000 enterprises were successfully transferred to private hands this year.

Participants cited a parliamentary provisional moratorium on privatization and insufficient legislation as main reasons behind the sluggish pace.

The biggest plans centered on agro-industrial businesses, of which 1,900 state farms were slated for privatization. However, only 352 have been privatized so far.

IFC representative Michael Cully, heading the agriculture mass privatization project, said "privatization in the agricultural sector determines the success of privatization in general."

Valeriy Bilko, State Property Fund privatization programs department director, said, "The creation of a competitive atmosphere is the strategic goal of privatization."

Yevhen Filozop, SPF ownership reform department director, said the privatization schedule for October had been already worked out. The newly formed committee will oversee privatization of 4,120 enterprises. Beyond that, preparations for privatization of another 2,136 enterprises are completed.

IFC small-scale privatization expert Olena Voloshina said the IFC is promoting privatization programs in 16 cities coordinated with local governments throughout Ukraine.

Privatization is proceeding quickly in six cities — Zaporizhzhya, Cherkasy, Uzhorod, Khmelnytsk, Mariupol and Luhansk — where 75 percent of slated businesses were privatized.

Out of 3,315 businesses that had been privatized by IFC promotion since 1992, 2,639 were privatized through privatization certificate auctions, 106 through buyout and 424 through auctions.

In August alone, 390 domestic businesses were privatized in assistance with the IFC.

Official Cites Current, Predicted Inflation Rates

WS1509104795 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0815 GMT 15 Sep 95

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At a meeting with journalists Ukraine's deputy minister of economics, Viktor Kalnyk, said that the inflation rate in August 1995, at 4.6 percent, was only 0.1 percent higher than had been projected. In September the projected inflation rate is somewhat higher - 6 percent - since rates for municipal services, gas, and coal went up on September 1. According to the government's plan the level of inflation in October should fall to 3.6 percent, then to 2.8 percent in November and down to 2 percent in December as foreseen by the Ukrainian government's and the International Monetary Fund's joint program. According to Mr. Kalnyk, if these predictions are realized then the average monthly inflation rate will be 7.5 percent, or three times lower than last year's. The government is using precisely these figures in drawing up the national budget for 1996.

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Study Shows Wages Increased in First Half of '95

WS1509100995 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0222 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Sep 14 — The average Ukrainian worker has seen his or her wage increase in real terms over the first half of the year, according to a study recently released by the World Bank.

Moreover, according to the study, the country has performed well in relation to most other former Soviet states, increasing average dollar wages during the period in relation to Russia, Moldova, Estonia and Latvia.

Ukraine's average monthly wage increased by more than 57 percent in the first six months of 1995, going from US$ 28 at the end of last year to US$ 44.

As a result, the average Ukrainian worker now earns 54.3 percent of the US$ 81 wage of his Russian counterpart, up from the fourth quarter 1994 29.8 percent parity level that is reflected in the figures, which were compiled by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

This increase exceeded the year-to-date inflation levels recorded by most analysts. Allowing for a karbovanets devaluation of approximately 15 percent over the first half, the cost of living in Ukraine has increased in dollar terms by a lesser margin.

The cost of a basket of consumer goods tracked on a bi-monthly basis by IntelNews increased by 16.6 percent in dollar terms over the first half.

In addition, Ukraine's progress in relation to the economically progressive Baltic states was also noted in the study, which showed an average Ukrainian wage equal to 24.2 percent of the figure for Estonia, up from 17.7 percent at the end of last year, and 22.9 percent of a Latvian wage, versus the 16.7 percent parity ratio which prevailed at the end of 1994.

Industrial-Financial Conglomerates Law Makes Progress

WS1509093695 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0222 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Sep 14 — Parliament gave tentative approval Thursday [14 September] to a law on industrial-financial conglomerates, deciding at the same time to send certain articles of the measure to its Legal Committee, which is to forward revisions to the president.

The bill must still later undergo a third reading in Parliament before becoming law.

In a revealing although largely symbolic change to the law, which is a key economic policy initiative of President Leonid Kuchma, the Rada [council] voted to change the name of the entities it created from "financial-industrial" to "industrial-financial" conglomerates.

Socialist Natalia Vitrenko, who insisted on the name change, said the intention was to stress that the main drive of the created groups would be the rebirth of industry.

According to the law, the conglomerates can consist of enterprises, scientific institutions, banks, farms and other organizations of varying forms of ownership.

The conglomerates, according to the law, are exempt from taxation on component products transferred between members and may only be taxed upon the final product.

Conglomerate members may be located either within Ukraine or abroad.

Many critics from both left and right fear the bill would result in loss of tax revenues and infringe upon economic sovereignty, especially with its allowance of foreign, particularly Russian, members.

Deputy Serhiy Teriokhin, Reforms group member, said the approved law "would promote creation of industrial-financial monsters that will be very difficult to control."

Deputies from the Reforms group say that the third reading of the conglomerates law may be postponed for an indefinite period.

"I suppose if the president issues a conglomerates decree, we will not veto it because we dragged the passage of the law," said Viktor Suslov, who actively supported the law over the opposition of all the members of his Finance and Banking Committee.

Poor State of Winter Preparations Viewed

WS1409141695 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 6 Sep 95 p 6

[Article by Svitlana Korotych: "Another Threat Is Moving Toward Ukraine — the Winter. As Always, We Meet It Unprepared" first two paragraphs are KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI introduction; last paragraph is KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI conclusion]

[FBIS Translated Text] Judging by popular omens, this winter is not going to be severe. At least, this is what optimists claim. Pessimists do not claim anything any more, they just prepare all the imaginable and unimaginable fuel resources — coal, wood, dung — as well as small stoves and kerosene lamps.... After all,

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the Ministry of Power and Electrification promises that energy will be supplied only for five or six hours a day, moreover, only at night. In addition, the nation is being threatened with complete ruin in the state, with "Georgian" or "Armenian" scenarios, according to which all the trees in public gardens would be cut down. Supposedly, one can also warm oneself with dung; however, what about electricity? After all, even natural needs cannot be met in the city without it (since municipal sewage systems operate exclusively by electricity). These are grim prospects, and government reports do not provide any relief. The process of preparing for the winter is being constantly monitored.

However, the preparations, as was pointed out at a recent Cabinet of Ministers session, are being conducted very badly — even worse than in previous years. Meanwhile, judging by the pace, all the government's resolutions and demands concerning this issue are being implemented without enthusiasm.

There Is Less and Less Oil And Gas, While Debts Are Increasing

As of 20 August, the coal supply for municipal needs was only 40 percent fulfilled. There was a shortfall of more than 4 million tonnes of coal deliveries to fuel storage depots. Storage reserves are much less than in previous years. The population, as well as the municipal service organizations, had not received 3.4 million tonnes of coal, which is 52 percent of the norm.

According to Coal Industry Minister Viktor Poltavets, coal mines are only 35-40 percent ready to operate in winter conditions. All this is the result of nonpayments to miners. A minimum financial injection of 1.5 trillion karbovantsi [K] is required to be fully prepared for the winter, and another K8.1 trillion to settle with the miners. Debts to the Russian "Gazprom" are once again increasing. The aggregate debt amounts to around $450 million, while debts for Turkmen gas amount to another $87 million.

According to the figures of the "Ukrresursy" company, in the first six months of 1995, around 3,493,900 million cubic meters [cu m] of Turkmen gas were delivered, including 598.1 million cu m under direct contracts. It is expected that 6 billion cu m of gas will be delivered from Turkmenistan by the end of 1995 in accordance with intergovernmental agreements. Under earlier commitments, "Ukrresursy" was obligated to ensure in the second half of 1995 the delivery to Ukraine of no less than 10 billion cu m of natural gas from Turkmenistan, including 4 billion cu m paid for by commercial organizations under direct contracts.

The delivery of 4 billion cu m of Turkmen gas and 13.5 billion cu m of Russian gas is expected in the first quarter of 1996. Meanwhile, the Russian "Gazprom" has generally acted uncomprehensibly. Not only Ukraine, but the whole of Europe may suffer from its actions in the winter. This concerns the pumping of Russian natural gas into Ukrainian underground reservoirs. As we know, during the winter, when the volume of gas supplied on a daily basis is not sufficient, it is necessary to scrummage in underground reservoirs. Therefore, some of the natural gas delivered in summer is usually not used and is fed into the reservoirs. Traditionally, the Russian "Gazprom" has always ensured stable deliveries of gas during the summer to make sure that in winter, which is an unstable period, the Ukrainians do not have to "borrow" gas from what is exported to Europe. However, while for instance, as of 25 August 1994 some 17 billion cu m were pumped into Ukraine's "underground," as of 25 August 1995 the volume of gas delivered to underground reservoirs stood at 13.8 billion cu m. We did not manage to clarify the reason why Russia reduced its deliveries. What is annoying is the fact that Ukraine is paying for Russian gas much more reliably this year. Having used gas from the reservoirs, we may find ourselves without gas in the heart of winter. Are we really fated to face the "Armenian" or "Georgian" scenarios?

Gas supplies to thousands of enterprises have been cut off. As of 1 August 1995, consumers' debts to "Ukrhazprom" amounted to K210.5 trillion. At the same time, the consumption of gas had significantly increased. According to Yevhen Dovzhko, acting chairman of the Ukrainian State Committee for the Oil, Gas, and Oil Refining Industry, in July (the hottest month of the year) the debt for gas consumed increased by K16 trillion.

Within the period 15 May to 1 August, 646 enterprises had their gas completely cut off because of their debts. Gas supplies to 38 enterprises were partially limited. All in all, over 7,600 enterprises had their gas supply cut off by mid-August. This made it possible to save over 13 million cu m of gas daily. Furthermore, much less oil was delivered than planned. In accordance with a contract between the "Roskontract" and the "Ukrainian Resources" companies, 3.5 million tonnes of oil will be delivered from Russia to Ukraine in 1995 under an intergovernmental agreement, and a further 1.1 million tonnes of oil for refining and manufacturing oil products in Ukraine. As of 1 August, only 310,200 tonnes of oil had been delivered.

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We Can Expect the Energy System To Collapse Any Day Now....

If we do not undertake urgent measures, claims Ukrainian Minister of Power and Electrification Oleksiy Sheberstov.

Currently, the primary problem in the power industry is a lack of balance between production and consumption. According to the minister, power consumption should be decreased by 16 percent to establish a balance. Otherwise, in accordance with all the laws of physics, nuclear power plants would be shut down. The majority of thermal power stations are supplied with fuel to last no more than 48 hours. Winter reserves are being used right, left, and center. While, for instance, 301,000 tonnes of coal was taken from the reserves in July, in the first two weeks of August this figure rose to 500,000 tonnes. Some 40,000 tonnes of residual fuel oil was "borrowed" from reservoirs in June, and in the first two weeks of August — 25,000 tonnes. Emergency shutdowns of substations have already been planned, and because of the existing structure of the power system, this will occur first of all in western Ukraine and Crimea.

Obviously, while people are freezing in their own apartments, far from everyone is worrying about the fact that a station has not been provided with fuel, and that fuel consumers had not paid for well over a month, and that, all in all, the entire government is working on the same puzzle week after week — how to survive the forthcoming winter.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian experts have made the following calculations: The national use of energy annually is 60 percent higher than necessary. The TACIS [expansion unknown] program provides us with the following figures: Around 1.3 kilowatt-hours of power was used to manufacture 1 kg of commodities in a glass factory in Denmark in 1992. In Ukraine, that figure was 3.8 kilowatt-hours. It is a very well-known fact that up to 30 percent of energy is wasted in our state, given the elementary mismanagement such as uninsulated heating systems, leaking faucets, and the like.

In every civilized country there exist bodies to take care of energy saving. The edict "On Establishing Ukrainian National Committee for Energy Saving" was signed by the Ukrainian president on 26 July 1995. The goals of the newly-established structure are to bring about a comprehensive national policy in the field of energy saving, to increase the effectiveness of activities concerning the rational use and economical consumption of fuel and energy resources, and to implement the Ukrainian Law "On Energy Saving." Mykhaylo Petrovych Kovalko was appointed chairman of the new committee by edict. He informed VEDOMOSTI that the committee will work in two directions. First, it will create normative legally-binding regulations and conduct standardizing, licensing, and the setting of norms; and second, it will monitor the observance of the law "On Energy Saving" and of legally-binding regulations. The committee will be subordinated to the Cabinet of Ministers. Regional and territorial branches of the committee are being established.

We Cannot Start the Heating Season This Year

This is exactly what Oleksiy Sheberstov, Ukraine's Minister of Power Engineering and Electrification claims. We simply do not have money to purchase fuel. Some 40 percent of equipment owned by the ministry is standing idle because K30 trillion is needed to repair it and nobody knows where to find the funds. At the beginning of August consumers owed K100 trillion to the ministry. This means that nobody has paid for more than half of the electricity consumed. The ministry owes K120 trillion to its suppliers, and the major part of that sum comprises interest on credit which the ministry had to take out to purchase fuel and pay the suppliers.

At the same time, Oleksiy Sheberstov told VEDOMOSTI that there had been progress in payments for electricity. While in the first half of 1995 consumers paid for no more than 50 percent of the power consumed, in July this figure was 87 percent, and in the first 18 days of August — 97 percent. The ministry attributes this to structural changes in the power industry. As of 1 July, the territorial power associations ceased to exist. Around 80 percent of enterprises subordinated to the Ministry of Power Engineering and Electrification have become joint stock companies.

However, the biggest debtors for electricity and heating are those who cannot be cut off from the power grid — the population, railways, farms, a number of industrial enterprises, and the coal industry. Oleksiy Sheberstov believes that if in the future the ministry continues to be prohibited from using sanctions against those categories of debtors, the power system will face a total collapse this winter. Once that has happened, it will be impossible to restore.

Bureaucrats Strongly Recommend: Citizens, Brace Yourselves!

Ukraine's State Committee for Housing and Municipal Facilities has been forced to admit that currently a tense situation has developed with regard to preparing housing and municipal facilities for the winter.

As of 1 August, 43 percent of planned housing repairs had been completed; 49.3 of roofs had been mended,

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47.2 percent of heating systems had been fixed, as well as 50.4 percent of hot water supply systems. The situation is worst of all in Lugansk, Kherson, Cherkasy, and Kharkov Oblasts, and in the city of Sevastopol. Hryhoriy Onyshchuk, chairman of the State Committee for Housing and Municipal Facilities believes that all this is the result of a lack of money. Hryhoriy Onyshchuk stated at a recent Cabinet of Ministers' session that more that K25 trillion of credit is needed to purchase fuel and equipment. The prime minister responded softly: It is not proper to ask for more credit when the committee's debt has already reached K70 trillion.

This, however, is not entirely the fault of the Committee for Housing and Municipal Facilities. The committee experts have calculated that as of 1 August the population owes K8,158,600 billion for housing and municipal services, which amounts to 46.2 percent of the aggregated debts. Some 48.4 percent of apartment-holders did not pay for housing and municipal services, and 56.6 percent of them had not paid for two months or more. The result is that only 5 percent of annual demand for liquid fuel and 5 percent of annual demand for coal has been stockpiled. Subsidies from the budget may meet only 30 percent of the requirements of the housing and municipal services sector. This means that it will be even colder in our houses that it was in 1994. There will be problems with hot water, too.

Calculations indicate that the situation in the transport sector will be no better. On average, 13.5 percent fewer vehicles are operating on routes than in the corresponding period in 1994. The number of vehicles has decreased by 6 percent, and the technically faulty rolling stock comprises 51 percent of the total.

One can draw very sad conclusions from the aforementioned. Judging by all appearances, this winter is going to be the toughest of all, although we were not promised warm lives in previous times, either. It is probably too late to start looking for those who are guilty at a time when it is getting significantly colder outside. Hardly anyone has any idea what are the "emergency" and "urgent" measures about which the governmental officials continue to talk. Most likely it boils down to the immediate acquisition of money which we do not have and do not envision. The coming winter may cause an explosion both in society and in the economic situation. After all, according to experts, it is advantageous for enterprises to accumulate debts which have acquired the form of mutual assistance: In the event of an emergency, the state will be forced to carry out another mutual annulment of debts. (It is indicative that considerable progress in resolving the issue of nonpayments has been achieved in those enterprises which have changed their form of ownership). However, one thing is clear: While certain people play politics and others economics, we have to think of how to survive, since neither the government reshuffles that the prime minister warned of nor instructions and resolutions can halt the winter.

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Belarus

Reportage on Shootdown of Hot Air Balloon

'Confusion' Over 'Tragic' Incident

MM1409145195 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Sep 95 pp 1-2

[Report by SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA's Pavel Yakubovich for IZVESTIYA: "There Was No Need To Attack the Hot Air Balloon" — report is accompanied by a sketch map of the balloon's route from Switzerland to Belarus showing the borders of the countries on its route and the direction of travel]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk — On Tuesday evening Belarusian television carried an item on the lives of a missile unit in the Air Defense Forces. Soldiers and sergeants were firing missiles, while commanding officers complained about the lack of combat practice, lamenting, in firm but despondent voices, the soldier's present lot.

Meanwhile, the warped and burned-out basket of a hot air balloon, neatly shot down by an air defense helicopter, lay in a field near the little town of Bereza in Brest Oblast, and had already lain there for several hours. Two bodies were found next to the remains of the balloon. On one of them there were documents giving the name of Allan Berkhard Frenkel [name as transliterated], a 55-year-old New Yorker, while the second, it emerged later, was also a U.S. citizen, 68-year-old Stuart Gervis [name as transliterated].

What happened in the sky near Brest?

The Republic of Belarus Security Council story is like this. At around 1000 on 12 September the Air Defense Forces central command point received a report that a small hot air balloon with an attachment [podstavka] on a rope had appeared in Belarus' air space. The balloon was flying in an easterly direction at an altitude of 2 km.

An all-weather "Su" fighter-interceptor was scrambled from a nearby airfield, but of course it was unable to distinguish anything as it sped frantically past the slowly drifting balloon. Then helicopters flew up to the balloon. After circling several times the pilots attempted to make "radio contact" with the balloon, but received no reply. One helicopter pilot flew as close as possible to the balloon's gondola but despite the clear weather he too could see nothing, and he fired the "warning" machine-gun shots that are customary in such cases. The balloon continued to drift slowly on. After all this, the pilot concluded that the balloon was "unmanned," and all this was reported to Lieutenant General Kostenko, commander of the Belarus Air Defense Forces. He gave the order to shoot down the balloon. That was child's play for a helicopter — in an instant the balloon was transformed into a smoldering bonfire....

While the air situation was being discussed in the headquarters of high-up staffs, the rank-and-file defenders of Belarus' skies, to their amazement, saw two more multicolored balloons slowly drifting into the country. This time the Air Defense Forces airmen acted less enthusiastically. Especially since one of the balloons "hoisted" a U.S. flag and immediately landed in the region of David-Gorodok, while the other made a landing near the rayon center of Zelva. The pilots, also Americans, who were frightened to death and understood nothing, were accompanied to a hotel, and had left Belarus by the end of yesterday.

It must be said that once the military authorities realized that an absurd and terrible tragedy had occurred, there was some confusion. The fact is that on Tuesday [12 September] President Alyaksandr Lukashenka was still in Chisinau on his official visit, and the custom in the country today is that in the absence of Alyaksandr Ryhoravich no public statements are made, and not many people try to show any initiative at all. Especially not in circumstances like this.

Maybe that is why the first official reports were notably lapidary and couched in that "officialese" from which the uninitiated person finds it difficult to understand anything at all. In particular, the official announcements for the press said nothing about the fact that the dead men were sportsmen participating in the International Ballooning Championship. Nor was anything said about the fact that the Swiss association that they belonged to had informed the Belarusian Air Traffic Organization Center as long ago as April about the intention to cross the air borders.

So today we can say that the "bureaucrats on the ground" did not carry out the actions necessary in such cases, while the military gentlemen, who were trained in vigilance in the former Soviet Army, were let down by "defense awareness" syndrome.

Today, when multicolored hot air balloons in which enthusiasts steam placidly all over Europe have become part of the international landscape, only someone with a vivid imagination could shoot at them. After all, even the fact that the hot air balloon was found close to military airfields hardly made it necessary to attack it.

A. Lukashenka's arrival in Minsk gave impetus to the hitherto sluggish investigation. The president gave instructions for the setting up of a state commission to investigate the circumstances of the incident, and sent condolences to the U.S. President. U.S. Charge

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d'Affaires Dzh. Boris [name as transliterated] was invited to the Belarusian Foreign Ministry, where he was told about all the circumstances of the tragic incident and promised maximum assistance in the completion of consular formalities. It has been learned from sources close to government circles that the question of setting up an international commission that could carry out an independent investigation of the tragic incident is being examined.

Commission Provides 'More Details'

LD1409152895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1422 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Belinform correspondent Vyacheslav Dutov for ITAR-TASS]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk, 14 Sep — More details are coming to light about the tragic incident involving the downing of an air balloon in the Brest Region of Belarus. A great deal of work has been carried out by a government commission headed by Belarusian Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich.

Yuriy Sivakov, deputy head of the government commission, gave the details of the death of two pilots who were U.S. citizens. He said, inter alia, that when the air balloon was discovered on 12 September at 1136, a helicopter took off. When it approached the balloon at a distance of 100 meters, its pilot reported the whereabouts and parameters of the gondola of grey color without identifying marks which was heading toward a military site. The apparatus failed to react to various signals. The pilot then opened fire for effect in accordance with instructions. The air balloon fell from an altitude of 2,300 meters at a distance of eight km to the east of the district center of Bereza.

Some time later, the Air Defense troops detected two more air balloons. In response to a request, both aircraft unfurled their national flags and sport markings, after which they were allowed to land. The balloon pilots confirmed they were taking part in an international competition organized by a Swiss air club.

The deputy chairman of the state commission confirmed that the Belarusian air traffic control center knew about this competition and should have duly informed all the appropriate services of the republic engaged in guarding Belarus air space about it. However, the balloon flight organizers also showed negligence. No additional information was given as to the time the flights were to commence. The balloon which was brought down did not have any sports markings whatsoever. In connection with this tragic incident, the Belarus military procuracy has instigated criminal proceedings. The U.S. embassy representatives in Belarus and relatives of the dead are now at the site of the incident.

The state commission is continuing its investigation into the details of the tragic incident.

Air Defense Commander Ordered Shootdown

LD1409184295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1753 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Vladimir Gulevich]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — It was Major-General V. Kostenko, the commander of the Belarusian Air Defence troops, who ordered to shoot down the hot air balloon on Tuesday. The two US citizens in it could have been unconscious and therefore did not respond to radio calls and warnings, according to Yuriy Sivakov, deputy chairman of the government commission investigating the tragedy.

He told a press conference Thursday that "from the legal point of view not a single letter of the law has been violated" as the unidentified "flying craft" intruded into the national airspace and did not respond to radio calls.

"Everything was done in strict compliance with instructions", Sivakov said, but added: "the moral side of it is another thing, there are many questions about it".

That was an "an outrageous incident", he commented.

Sivakov said the helicopter which shot down the balloon was piloted by a young Captain who took the cabin for a cargo compartment and fired 20 bullets from a large-caliber 12.7-mm machinegun at it.

Members of the government commission believe the pilots of the downed balloon were unconscious and therefore did not respond to radio calls, did not show up and even did not react to the warning machinegun fire from the Mi-4 helicopter. They could have lost conscience because of a decompression sickness originating after a sharp climb to the altitude of 8,000 metres and a consequent sharp fall to 2,300 metres, according to Sivakov.

Members of the government commission, who checked the remains of the balloon, stated that it had no identification markings and was painted in monotonous grey without any bright colours.

"On that day there were some 500 flying craft in the skies of Belarus about which the Central command post of the Air Defence had the necessary information. The downed and the two landed balloons were not on the list. They came from the direction of Poland, but when the Belarusian military requested their Polish

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colleagues, the answer was that they knew nothing about the objects", according to Sivakov.

He said that the Centre for the organisation of air traffic of Belarus had received in March an application from Switzerland, from the organisers of the balloon flight, to use the Belarusian airspace on September 9-12.

However, according to Sivakov, the application was not later backed by the necessary documents and agreements. "The Belarusian side did not possess information on the launched competition", Sivakov said.

At present all those suppositions and causes of the incident are being investigated by the Belarusian government commission and by international specialists headed by a noted expert who had investigated the 1983 downing by Soviet Airforce of the South Korean Boeing in the Far East.

The Belarusian side is to provide the results of its investigation by October 1.

Further Reports on Balloon Downing

WS1509105095 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. State Department has requested the Belarusian administration to conduct a thorough and precise investigation of the incident that occurred on 12 September in Belarusian air space. The State Department statement disseminated by the U.S. Embassy says that the Americans consider the delay with which the United States was informed about the incident inadmissible. On 12 September, in Belarusian air space, a hot air balloon was forced down and its U.S. crew, numbering two people, were killed. Another hot air balloon was forced to land. The two members of its crew, also U.S. citizens, are safe and sound and have already made contact with the U.S. Embassy in Minsk. The Belarusian administration confirmed the incident only the day after it occurred. The statement says that the hot air balloon crews were participating in a hot air balloon international competition organized by a Swiss air club. According to an air club employee, permits for the flight were received from all the European countries, including Belarus.

According to (?Aleksey Sulematin), an official of the U.S. Embassy Information Service in Minsk, the department so far has no information about whether Belarus issued permission for the flight or not. The Belarusian Defense Ministry press service does not have this information, either. According to its official, a hot air balloon with people on board was shot down by a military helicopter. The RIA Agency reported that Nicholas Burns, U.S. State Department official spokesperson, referring to the report by the Swiss air club that conducted the hot air balloon sports competition, told journalists that the pilots had all the necessary documents for crossing Belarusian air space.

On Belarusian President Lukashenka's instruction, a state commission to investigate this air accident — as a result of which two U.S. citizens were killed — has been established. The commission has been instructed to report on the reasons for the accident to the president by 1 October. The same presidential instruction also requested the Belarusian Prosecutor's Office to institute criminal proceedings regarding the accident and oversee their implementation.

Incident Possible Test of 'Vigilance'

MM1509105095 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by Valeriy Kovalev under the "Postscriptum: Events and Commentaries" rubric: "Tragic Incident in Skies Over Belarus. Hot-Air Balloon Downed Over Berezovskiy Rayon in Brest Oblast 12 September. Two Pilots Died"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk — On the evening of 13 September the mass media released the text of the Belarus Government's official statement through the BELINFORM news agency. It says that at 0941 hours the republic's air defense alert forces detected a hot-air balloon in Belarusian air space in the immediate vicinity of the state border. All the measures taken to make contact with the balloon — repeated attempts to establish radio contact with the crew, the buzzing of the balloon by a military helicopter to make visual contact with the pilots, and warning shots — produced no result.

At 1154 hours the aircraft was brought down by the Air Defense Forces in the region of the "Osovtsy" military airfield (Brest Oblast) and the Russian Strategic Missile Forces unit stationed nearby. The two pilots, U.S. citizens, died as a result of the incident.

The Belarus Government, the statement says, expresses regret at this air disaster which involved loss of life. By directive of the Belarus president a government commission headed by Vice Premier Mikhail Myasnikovich has been formed to investigate all the circumstances of the incident.

It has also come to light at the Republic of Belarus Interior Ministry that police staffers, who were the first to arrive at the scene where the balloon came down near the village of Krugloye, found two corpses in the balloon's gondola. In their opinion the pilots died as a result of multiple injuries suffered when the balloon hit the ground. It is presumed that they were taking

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part in international balloon races for the James Gordon Bennett Trophy and took off from Danish territory 9 September. The question that arises in this connection is: Were the relevant Belarusian services warned about the possibility of competitors appearing in the republic's air space? The Air Defense Forces headquarters claim that they received no such information through any channels.

It is, of course, too soon to draw any conclusions regarding the incident, let alone to assess the actions of the Belorusian air defense personnel before the official investigation is completed. However, it is already clear now that the Belarus air defense alert forces and systems are vigilant and are thoroughly monitoring the air space of their republic and the western sector of the whole CIS. Incidentally, exactly a year ago they also discovered weather balloons from the West in the sky over Belarus. A combat alert was sounded and ground-alert fighters took off. But on that occasion there was no shooting. The interceptor pilots established that these balloons presented no threat to the republic's security. But this time the test of the Belarus Air Defense Forces' vigilance, probably an intentional one, ended in tragedy....

Lukashenka Interviewed on Current Issues

WS1509094595 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1000 GMT 13 Sep 95

["Exclusive interview" with President Alyaksandr Lukashenka by Tamara Lonskaya, correspondent of Mir Interstate Broadcasting Company in Minsk; place and date not given; interviewer and Lukashenka speak in Russian — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Lonskaya] I would very much like to conduct this conversation without politics, but unfortunately it is not possible because politics pervades our entire life. And perhaps all 24 hours of the president's life are overcome by politics, too.

[Lukashenka] As a matter of fact, there was nothing in life except for politics. Even on the [tennis] court, they told me: If you keep thinking about work on the court, you will not be able to play. The president's life cannot go on without politics....

[Lonskaya] Speaking about courts, do you really like to play tennis? Or, is it just a bow to protocol?

[Lukashenka] Unlike our listeners, Yelena [not further identified] has known me for a long time. I have never done anything as a tribute to something. Never. Everything I ever did was in compliance with my convictions. If it ran counter with my convictions, I did not do it; and if it was impossible not to do it, I would go away. You can go to the tennis court and see that I am always and everywhere a sincere man. And even during workouts — and I am not talking about official matches that took place here with [Russian Foreign Minister] Kozyrev and [Moscow Mayor] Luzhkov from Russia, as well as with our officials and simple people — I behave properly. I do not go to play tennis just because it is the trendy thing to do. I play it because it is fun. I will soon play with Boris Yeltsin. But so far [Lukashenka laughs] [words indistinct]. Even though I have to admit I took up tennis at his [word indistinct] when he rebuked me for my not being able to play tennis. It was seven or eight months ago. I said that I would definitely learn how to play. And I did learn to play tennis. I beat Luzhkov. By the way, he plays very well. But I am scared to play soccer with him — I saw that he is a pretty good soccer player, too.

[Lonskaya] You said that you also play tennis with simple people. Do they give away to you on the court?

[Lukashenka] On the contrary. The Service is the most difficult element of tennis, but I learned how to serve.

[Lonskaya] And not only when playing tennis. I see that it will be necessary to use the tennis terminology to understand you. But even I understand the term "service." A question arises here, which is perhaps also asked by many of our listeners: How can the president play tennis at a time when such things are happening in our state? This is why we must talk politics.

[Lukashenka] Yes, I can answer that at a time when such difficult things are happening in our state, the president does play tennis. You probably imply that some politicians are too well off. Unfortunately, I started to play tennis largely due to special considerations — when I adopted many unpopular measures after the hard strain caused by my election as president. And very recently... [Lukashenka pauses] The economy rejects any populism. I myself would be very eager to pay people some extra money, but the economy, unfortunately, cannot sustain all this. We have not yet reached the level at which people live well. When resorting to those measures and seeing the reaction of people... [Lukashenka changes thought] Although I cannot say that people do not support me — on the contrary. But I felt that they [words indistinct] have doubts. I was concerned with this. So, amid this inhuman strain, I felt that there was some lapse. This has affected my spine. In fact, I was never sick in my life, and I do not know what the hospital is. When they attempted to put me in the hospital, I stayed there for two hours and then escaped. I was already the president at that time. [word indistinct] came and saw no president! This is why I decided to apply here people's wisdom: Fight fire with fire.

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So, I started intensive workout, despite the outcry of doctors who were hanging on my back — especially my personal doctor — and advising me against exercise. I thought: Come what may. And let me tell you this, our wise people are right — you can fight fire with fire. Truth, Russians helped me very much, the Russian Government. As you know, I was in Sochi last year. They put me back in the saddle. They did much — the Russian people. I am grateful for that. They examined my spine, because they have the equipment that we do not have here. And we do not have [word indistinct] either. This is why I was sent to Sochi for 10 days.

[Lonskaya] In the West, they regularly make public reports on medical condition of the president. Why is it not the case in our country?

[Lukashenka] I must tell you that you are perfectly right. Such a medical report will be published in the immediate future, particularly since I have nothing to hide. We have recently gone through a full checkup. I am glad that its results are very good; everything is normal. So, I have no reason to hide anything. We will definitely print it.

[Lonskaya] You mentioned your personal doctor...

[Lukashenka, interrupting] I have only one personal doctor, not a crowd of people. She is a regular doctor working in a hospital. As a specialist, she is kept at her old job, because there, too, she has to provide consultations to other doctors. Despite her young age, she received training abroad, many times in Italy. I must tell you that she is an extremely skillful professional in her field. Plus, she has good spirit.

[Lonskaya] When you were elected president, I said that we were lagging behind Russia, in terms of time, reforms, and politics. What is the essence of our Belarusian reforms? Are there currently any differences between them and those in Russia?

[Lukashenka] The reforms being currently implemented in brotherly Russia are unacceptable. I have already said this. We are doing this in a calm manner, and first of all, if we talk about reforms, we speak about liberalization of prices, the freeing of prices. By the way, we do not currently restrain any prices. We speak about liberalization of foreign trade. Could you name at least one state whose borders are entirely open, and, so to speak, where people can ship whatever products they want to whichever place they want. There is no such state. Why then should we fully open our borders? We can do this where we can, and where it is beneficial for us, where it is beneficial for both us and the West. In this area, we and Russia have one policy, given that we have a customs union. Therefore, in foreign trade we generally coordinate our policy, and in foreign policy as well.

As for privatization — this is the principal issue of reform, the replacement of the owner, let us not deceive one another — ownership means power. During the election campaign, I did not promise a landslide privatization to my people. I did not promise it. We are examining [the privatization procedure] of many facilities privatized by the former government... I can see the most gross crime in this. Therefore, it is true that privatization in our country is not proceeding in the same way as it is in Russia, though this does not discourage me. I think this is a normal process. Do you remember that (?Thatcher) privatized 10 state-owned companies within 10 years? All in all 10 companies. I cannot allow robbery of the Belarusian people. Of course, I am criticized for this. But who criticizes me? The people? No. Teachers or doctors? No. I know that the Russian president has recently been pragmatically looking at the reforms of the Russian economy.

[Lonskaya] Is the president going to finally resolve the issue of investment in Belarus?

[Lukashenka] This refers to investment funds. They are currently operating under the most stringent state control. We have a very favorable environment for investment in our country. On 27 September a large group of U.S. businessmen and entrepreneurs will visit us, and at their request — they are coming from the United States — the president will meet them and hold a discussion on investments. We will show them the entire economy. Gentlemen, please invest your money. We will jointly manufacture products. If you want, take the products; if you want, we will jointly sell them and then divide the profits. This is how it should proceed. Do you want to privatize? Let us examine the facilities you want to privatize. Do you want to carry out construction in our country? Please, go ahead and build. I am even ready to examine the issue of private ownership of those land plots on which they want to build their companies. All this will be controlled, however. We do not have spare land, nor does Russia. Although we seem to be large countries, and we have a small population, we do not have land to spare. Everything should be purchased. Therefore, I am ready to present U.S. entrepreneurs with my proposals. There is nothing free.

One of the current investors is a Ford representative, who, by the way, is actively cooperating with us in Barysaw. Incidentally, we have set up a joint venture which is unusual for Ford, because it usually opens its own companies. This joint venture is operating. Ford has decided to set up a joint venture to assembly and produce cars in Belarus. When I told him that all kinds

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of things are being written about the president of Belarus to the effect that Lukashenka is red etc., and that he is against the market economy, he said: Newspapers say that, but I know you are a sincere and decent person, and that you will not take away my money. That is all. Entrepreneurs say things that are absolutely different from those written by certain engaged journalists from IZVESTIYA and KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA.

[Lonskaya] By virtue of a presidential edict, two banks — one state-run and another private — were recently merged.

[Lukashenka] The merger of a state- owned bank and a joint stock one has been carried out. State-run companies have the majority of shares in Belarusbank, which you termed private. This bank was set up by our government — the Kebich government. When we began to tackle this problem we very clearly disclosed that fact and suggested that Belarusbank and its staff, its team — which is undoubtedly a professional team — should head the two merged banks. Why do people think it is impossible to merge a state-run bank with a private one? The main thing is not to affect the interests of either the private owner or the state-run bank. If after the merger Sberbank's [Savings Bank] share in the authorized capital will be 99 percent, and the other's bank share will amount to 1 percent, those interests will be observed.

The main thing is that we are establishing a joint stock bank. We are selling shares in a state-run bank. We are thus clearing the way for an influx of investment. This is a normal option; this is a market-like option. By the way, the Russians did this a long time ago, and it has not been observed that the president or the state have lost influence on this bank. The manager was appointed by the president. Our state's share in the authorized capital is colossal. The Belarusbank, which you termed private, made great concessions during the forming of authorized capital. To protect our people, we are establishing a really powerful bank, with which also Russian banks will do business, since it will employ professionals well-trained by Russian and even Western banking institutions. The entire capital of our state will be concentrated in this bank. This bank will not run scams, as our commercial banks currently do. It will protect only your interests — the interests of the ordinary people — because the people's money is deposited in Sberbank. Since we must return the people their money, the bank's primary task — a social task — is to develop a mechanism for returning of or compensating for the population's savings. Such a concept has basically been developed. This is an interesting concept, and the government and the president will examine it in the immediate future. There is another issue — a social one. Look, housing construction has virtually been suspended. Therefore, the second task with which the merged bank's new staff have been charged is to draft a program for subsidizing housing. Should this be done? I should. However, if I do not have money, I will not accomplish that. Therefore, a very influential and powerful bank is being established to implement the president's popular policy. I must say that this is not baloney and idle talk. It is currently possible to conduct a normal popular policy. And one should not scream that this is a sort of populism, etc. During elections we always promise many things to the people, and then forget everything. Then we say: This is populism. No, if you promise something to the people, you must fulfill it. I have to resolve these two problems, and I will then be able to tell the people with clear conscience that I have kept my promises. When I ran in the presidential elections, I said that all privileges would be abolished. And I have abolished them. Although some voters, even my voters, and certain social groups do not like it. However, I promised this, and the people supported this policy. The same here: since I promised this, I have to do it. This is why this bank has been set up.

[Lonskaya] We will mark the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster in 1996. You know that the statistics coming from the afflicted areas are quite terrible and dire. I believe you know them. There are reports on numerous cases of cancer among children. Busloads of children are sent from those areas to Minsk. How does the state assist them, particularly since the so-called coffin-money [derogatory name for allowances paid to people in Chernobyl- afflicted areas] amounts only to 30,000 rubles? With this money people, in fact, cannot do anything to improve their health.

[Lukashenka] I would like to ask you the following question: If we gave 300,000 [currency not specified] today, would it mean anything to these people? When I visited the Chernobyl zone, these people told me the following: Annul this absurdity. We do not need the handouts earmarked by the Supreme Soviet five years ago. And they were correct. This does not resolve the problem. The problem should be resolved fundamentally by conducting health checks of the people and timely prophylactic measuress, early detection of diseases. This is what we are currently doing there. By the way, the Russian Government has pledged to help us construct a great oncological center in Homel, which will become the largest one in Bryansk, Mahilyow, and Homel oblasts. And we are currently building it.

We have to create normal living conditions for people that stayed to live there. I have recently signed two edicts. The first edict eliminates illegal benefits and

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privileges affecting everyone from the president to a simple man. This will secure an additional R2 trillion annually. This is a large sum, and all this money will go to [words indistinct] — all to the last kopek. This is why we want to create there a (?basis) instead of engaging in window- dressing, pretending that we treat people, bring them to Minsk for treatment, and so on. Of course, we will bring them to Minsk, too. We have our own base there. By the way, I recently visited St. Petersburg and Moscow. Yuriy Luzhkov and Anatoliy Sobchak [Moscow and St. Petersburg mayors, respectively] unequivocally supported me on this issue. And if I have any problems with some more serious diseases, our brothers in St. Petersburg and Moscow will immediately accept our people and provide them with relevant medical aid. I want to take this opportunity and say that there were tonnes of assistance declarations coming from many places, from America to Africa. But only Russia is actually helping us — not too much, of course, as they have enough of their own problems. No one else helps us. Even Ukraine, where the reactor exploded, not not help. Only Russia provides assistance, which is not very big. I understand that at present it is not the size of this help that is important, but the very fact of involvement to ease this nasty suffering being experienced by the Belarusian people. After all, we pay about 20 percent of the national budget to minimize consequences of the Chernobyl meltdown. [words indistinct] you were listening. I just wanted to express thanks for this help. Belarusians will pay back this aid equally.

[Lonskaya] Going to this meeting with you, I asked people what they would like to ask the president about. The main question was as follows: Life is very difficult, and there is so far no improvement in sight. Naturally, improvement is something that everyone is expecting from you as the president.

[Lukashenka] People are absolutely right in saying this. Life has not become better. But you have to ask people: Is it possible nowadays to earn enough money for a better life? At present, those who really want to work and earn can do that. But I have nothing to say to the workers that do not receive their wages for 10-15 days, or even one month at some enterprises. Soon, we will normalize the situation here in a very tough manner. I promise that in October we will fully eliminate our wage debts to workers from specific enterprises. We will repay those debts. As for farmers, entrepreneurs, and many others, please make money. Who prevents you from doing this? No one. Unfortunately, our people are accustomed to ask for things if life is hard and difficult. But where should we find and take what they are asking for? You have to earn everything. As for teachers and doctors, there is a problem here. Their salaries are really low. Life has not become easier; but it is not because Lukashenka has come. This breakdown has been brewing for several years. Incidentally, even my opponents warned me that once elected president, I would become responsible for all things that other people did during 10 year of perestroyka. They were perfectly right. I am forced to bear this responsibility. But it is not me, not the policies of the government or the president where underlying causes are hidden. We have destroyed the whole system. They say that people in the Baltics earn $140 [per month], but I answer them: How much do they pay for utilities in the Baltics? As much as 100 percent. In our country, this figure — so far — is 60 percent. If they had to pay 100 percent here, then our people would really feel difficulty. For the time being, this burden lies on the budget. We are forced to secure money for the budget and find funds for compensation.

Take the problem of transport. In our country, subway, bus, and trolley-bus tickets are one-third or one-fourth of what they cost in Moscow. Our foodstuffs are three times cheaper than in Russia. So, we have a problem here. We need to protect our own market. Problems are all over. Meanwhile, wages here have reached the Russian levels. I just compare our minimal wages with Russian average wages and get this result.

Another positive thing is that we live in a calm and stable country, where you can live and make money. We see this problem. [words indistinct] we will be forced to go back to the minimal wages and pensions for our population in October.

[Lonskaya] I have the impression that in our country things are only done when the president pays attention to them. Things that are outside your reach seem to be sort of frozen. I understand that you are not physically able to take care of everything. Besides, you are not supposed to do that.

[Lukashenka] Take the financial policy in our state. A lot depends on it. Who devised it: the National Bank subordinated to the Supreme Soviet. Is this policy being carried out successfully? No. We have no financial and credit policy at all. But it will not be the Supreme Soviet that the people will call to account, but the president. Whether I like it or not, I must interfere with this system. After that, however, they started shouting at me: Dictator! You meddle in someone else's business.

Take, for example, the problem of the General Prosecutor's Office. Recently, I had to fire the general prosecutor. Just as in Russia, the general prosecutor is answerable to the parliament, and he is appointed by the

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parliament. What else could I do when the General Prosecutor's Office had virtually ceased operation, turning into a major mob structure on Belarusian territory. This body is responsible for overseeing implementation of laws, but it did not perform this function. What was I supposed to do as the president? I intervened and made a decision. The situation is improving in both bodies.

The presidential vertical chain of power is so far operating very weakly. The same applies to local government institutions. I will have to go back to this issue. Changes in the regions will be dramatic. It has been only one year. It seems lie a long time, and everyone wants everything changed in a year. It is impossible. We live in a Republic which, unfortunately, due to objective reasons, greatly depends on other republics and states. We have created [word indistinct] of the industry and giant enterprises having no raw materials. This put us in a dependent state. To bolster all those who have not yet understood the present situation and support others, I have to actively meddle in all issues that are brought to my attention. Of course, your rebuke is well founded. I have nothing with which to counter your arguments. The systems need to be adjusted so that they can operate. People in Soviet times had a correct saying: Cadre decides everything. Unfortunately, Belarus is starved for management personnel. However, there is an interesting tendency which was first observed in the military environment. Recently, many people have started to come back to Belarus, and not only Belarusians — first of all, Russians who used to serve here. Even generals. Three top generals applied to me. I think there will be no problem.

[Lonskaya] I would not say that people are overly interested in politics. Nevertheless, such questions are hard to avoid. Take the recent events in Minsk — the subway strike. The Russian press published many reports on this topic. They [?included removal] of some editors [words indistinct], the edict on the deputy's immunity, and the fact that it was canceled by your edict. This is something that our listeners are concerned with. And, of course, there is your very tough attitude toward the opposition, which exists in our state just like in any other state.

[Lukashenka] First things first. [Let us speak about] all unpopular measures adopted by the president, both in the social and economic spheres and the political sphere. Let us start from the most important issue. What is it that people demanded from me at the elections?

[Lonskaya] Order.

[Lukashenka] Order, discipline, a master in the state, and so on and so forth. What did the Supreme Soviet want to achieve when adopting the new Constitution and introducing the presidential post? Order and discipline. People and the Supreme Soviet deputies achieved what they wanted — a strong power and a man who gets himself involved in all problems. Right? Right.

Now about the subway strike. The way the Russian media pitched it sometimes made me watch with pain reports by the ORT [Russian Public Television] and Russian television. Some 150 people took part in the strike. But these were drivers who paralyzed a city of 2 million. Our subway provides service to the entire city of Minsk. People whose salary is three times that of the Belarusian president went on strike. In addition, they staged the strike in a place where law categorically prohibits organizing any strikes. Did the free trade union leaders not know about this? Yes, they did. But they were pushing, on the eve of the legislative elections, which, as everyone knows, will be held in November, and sooner than in Russia... [Lukashenka does not complete sentence] The opposition, the BNF [Belarusian Popular Front], stood behind everyone — the opposition that hates everything that is Russian. It hates integration and wants to see Belarus break away from Russia and sail in free waters. No one knows to where, though. I was watching. I was watching for three days. On the fourth day, when I saw some Belarusian embassies [as heard] meddling in this political situation and when I realized that a chain reaction may break out, destabilizing the situation in the Republic, I intervened. Notably, I did it in compliance with the Constitution. The subway was put in order in several hours. New people who responded to my appeal were made available overnight. By the way, Moscovites, too, [words indistinct]. I want to express my overwhelming gratitude to them. Yuriy Luzhkov immediately dispatched 13 highly professional instructors who trained railroad workers. It was not a harmless action. It was a well conceived, anti-state, and political action. This is why I firmly intervened. What country has immunity for deputies: maybe a great democracy such as the United States of America? No. In that country, a congressman is responsible for everything as a normal man. For 18 kisses and for the fact that several years ago someone pulled some strings to protect a congressman's wife, this congressman was removed. It was a short time ago. One of the oldest congressmen was removed from Congress. So, why do we think that anything is possible in our country — from anarchy and pseudo-democracy to true democracy?

I know that the Republic is being pressured from everywhere, including the West. They want to want to drive a wedge between us and Russia. This example of Belarus striving for unity with Russia is extremely undesirable for Western states.

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I do not force anybody into writing what I want to read, but tendentious or biased presentation of the material of what is going on in our Republic receive appropriate assessment on the president's part. The media should function with an eye toward national interests, and not oppose the national policy. I am talking in global terms. You can criticize the president. They criticize me — let them — they criticize the president of Russia, too. However, the Russian president perhaps reacts to those kinds of things more calmly; he must be somewhat more experienced and wise than I am. I do not react to those kinds of things sensitively; I react adequately, especially when I see who finances those opposition newspapers, from whose hands they receive their dollars, and what kind of policy they pursue. Finally, your question about my tough attitude toward the opposition. Strange as it might seem, currently both the national-fascist forces and the communists oppose the president. The opposition itself initiated my tough attitude. I played according to their rules. The situation would be absolutely different if I pursued an antipopular policy. However, there is hardly any journalist, any honest oppositionist — if they have honest people — who could reproach me for holding office to serve interests other than the people's, or for pursuing an antipopular policy. Nobody can say that.

[Lonskaya] Both the Belarusian and Russian media have recently carried what we, journalists, call canards. Are you going to become Russia's president?

[Lukashenka] I am curious, how can I become Russia's president? We have different legislations. Someone who is not a Russian Federation citizen cannot become Russia's president. Speaking explicitly, God save me from this. This indeed is a canard, and a canard produced here in Belarus to cause a clash between me and the Russian Federation president, the Russian leadership, evoke their dissatisfaction or jealousy, if you wish. They published this canard in KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA. By the way, I did not expect that KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA would agree. God help me manage my native Belarus and meet my commitments before my own nation, the Belarusian nation. Meanwhile, my policy is aimed at achieving unity of Slavic nations and creating fraternal relations between Russia and Belarus. Whether somebody likes it or not such relations have always existed and will continue to exist. The people elected me president for this. During the referendum, the people instructed me to act toward that goal: unity with the fraternal Russian nation. This kind of policy will be conducted, given that more than 90 percent of those who participated in the elections voted for it.

[Lonskaya] In an interview held with a Krasnoyarsk reporter, which, frankly speaking, caused a lot of commotion both in Belarus and in Russia, you expressed — speaking in your well-known impulsive and emotional manner — condemnation of the Belovezhskaya Forest agreement [on division of the USSR].

[Lukashenka] Thank you for the polite question. By the way, the media represented it in a distorted manner. Has there been any period in Lukashenka's political activities, beginning from the Belovezhskaya Forest agreements and their ratification by the Supreme Soviet, when Lukashenka would not condemn those agreements? There has been no such period, and both the Russians and you, Belarusian journalists working in the Russian media know that. I have always opposed, and will oppose what happened in 1991 on the territory of my native Belarus. I do not agree that we talk about three people [signing the agreements]. Excuse me, there were heads of government and other political activists who currently work peacefully, as if they were not involved in all that. I am not speaking about results. The results are clear. However, Boris Yeltsin's hands were twisted in Belovezhskaya Forest by two nationalists, a Ukrainian and a Belarusian: [former President] Kravchuk and [former Supreme Soviet Chairman] Shushkevich. They demanded that the Soviet Union be destroyed. When many deputies in our parliament voted for the Belovezhskaya Forest agreements and for the CIS, many of them believed that we would be able to keep the integrity of the state. Yeltsin, too, believed in that. When later, literally several months or even weeks later, the leaders got together in Moscow and passed resolutions that continued the Belovezhskaya Forest agreements, and when Boris Yeltsin addressed the issues which could prevent the destruction of the state, our Shushkevich and Ukraine's Kravchuk categorically opposed him. They were asked by Yeltsin: How is that possible? We agreed in Viskuli, in Belovezhskaya Forest that we would not destroy the single state. Shushkevich and Kravchuk stated: We interpret that differently.

Thus, different goals were pursued by different people in Viskuli. Everybody played his own role to achieve his goal. At present, we should work in order not to become even farther apart from one another, and I must say that on this issue my standpoint fully coincides with that of the Russian Federation's president. The only difference is that I would like the Russian Federation Government to realize the agreements that we signed with Boris Yeltsin in Minsk in 1995. Russia, too, should make the next step toward uniting the Belarusian and Russian peoples. It is Russia which should currently show an example. Otherwise, if no such steps are made in the immediate future, primarily on Russia's part, the CIS will collapse. The CIS has such an amorphous form that it can no longer exist. I do not even mention the

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efficiency of the CIS bodies. Therefore, Great Russia should say its word both in Belarusian-Russian relations and in relations within the CIS. We have had enough of being regarded as the backyard of civilization. The world should treat us with respect. The world will only feel respect when we are together, just as in the past. We are wise people and we can always reach an agreement on appropriate forms.

[Lonskaya] People in journalistic circles say that you are going to meet the Russian president.

[Lukashenka] This meeting is simply inevitable. Its date does not depend on Lukashenka. Lukashenka has presented the Russian president with written proposals. I cannot speak about those proposals, because they are confidential. Some 2 million Russians live on Belarus's territory. Tell me: Has any one of them ever said that he is unhappy here, that he is being persecuted? Never. This problem does not exist here.

[Lonskaya] I would like to ask you a question which does not concern politics. Your electors consider you an embodiment of the American dream. This is a typically American scenario, because it is in the United States where an actor or some other person of that kind can become a president.

[Lukashenka] I am that other kind of person. You know, Tamara, if I had been elected president immediately after being a [kolkhoz] manager, this would be really awful. However, I worked for years in the industrial sector — as deputy manager of a big combine. I served in the Army — not for one year, or two years, or three years. I worked in the Komsomol. Then, after graduating from the economic faculty of another institution of higher education, I — after going a long way — became manager of a big agricultural enterprise. My recent job was that of a legislator — you probably remember that I was chairman of the Supreme Soviet Commission for Fighting Corruption for two years. My active involvement in politics and economy made me a well-known politician. During the years preceding my election, I rated second or third [among Belarusian politicians]. I occupied a solid second position immediately before the elections. Everybody saw and knew that. The Republic of Belarus has a non-nomenklatura president. This man has come from the masses.

[Lonskaya] Once you mentioned mother earth. I am personally very interested to learn about your roots.

[Lukashenka] I was developing under the influence of the entire environment and life in the village, or in the town when I was a student. I was raised by my mother. It happened that my older brother died when he was three years old or so. My mother and father divorced, and my mother raised me all on her own. My mother did the hardest kind of work in the village, and I had to work hard along with her to earn bread.

[Lonskaya] Are you her only child?

[Lukashenka] Yes, I am her only child, and she is my only parent. I have seen hard times in my life. I know life not by hearsay. As I say, I had to earn bread for myself. I graduated from the history faculty with a certificate of distinction. I was very active in public life. I really was the editor of the institute newspaper.

They used to pay increased scholarships to people performing those functions. Those who studied well and were engaged in public activities received certain benefits — around 10 rubles probably. The scholarship was 45 rubles, then 46 rubles, and there were benefits — 10 or 11 rubles. I used to receive an increased scholarship, and it was enough for me to visit home three or four times a month. My mother was often sick; I would go home to help her and, of course, to get me some potatoes or fat, as students normally did. My scholarship was enough to do that. Therefore, I know life not by hearsay. I know life is hard. I love ordinary people. It is my trouble and not my guilt that today I cannot give those people what they want from me because of objective reasons that are beyond my control. However, I am sure that we will achieve a better life for our people, and as early as within my presidency. I simply swear that I will do no harm to the state.

I would like people to understand that today we can either eat out our wealth or [words indistinct] save money. If people only knew how many billions of rubles I have to allocate from the presidential reserve fund! I have already unsealed that fund and have spent almost all of it on social protection of the people and on the construction of the subway. Meanwhile, this means spending money. People do not live on bread alone. I have been criticized by IZVESTIYA, which wrote that Lukashenka had put the Republic's palace, which is still under construction, under the jurisdiction of the Presidential Administration. People should be grateful to me. The palace has been under construction for 10 years, and everything has been pilfered there. I had to take it over to build it immediately, move artists from the opera and ballet theater to the palace, and restore the opera theater's unique building. There is no other opera and ballet theater of that kind anywhere... perhaps a comparable one is only in Russia. Foreigners attend its performances; people from the embassies are always there. Those are unique things and they should be supported. We should support artists, as well as doctors and scholars. Thus, I know this hard complex

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life, and I know what it takes for an ordinary working man to live it.

[Lonskaya] Who evokes your most tender feelings?

[Lukashenka] Undoubtedly, those are children. Regardless of whether things worked out or not in my life, I gave my children everything I could. Children are everything for me. Therefore, I would say that I treat children most tenderly, lovingly, and caringly.

[Lonskaya] Which traits in human characters attract or disgust you?

[Lukashenka] You know, it is very important to me that people who are close to me or distant from me, or people in general, have such traits as sincerity and decency. I terribly hate treachery and indecency.

[Lonskaya] What is your taste in the arts?

[Lukashenka] I like historical novels most of all, perhaps due to my first diploma. I read a lot of history books. I recently read [word indistinct] poems again. I have little time for that. Therefore, you should not believe that there are presidents or other state officials who can read books day and night. I have very little time to read my favorite historical novels and books.

[Lonskaya] Before asking the last question, I would like to express my gratitude for holding this interview with Mir Broadcasting Company. What attracts you in presidential activities? Is it just the politics?

[Lukashenka] Nothing attracts me any more. You know, if I had the idea that it would be this way, I would have hardly engaged in the fight. It is not pessimism. I will work conscientiously, to exhaustion, even though things turned out this way. However, I tell you with absolute sincerity: This is an unbelievable labor and, unfortunately, many things are beyond my control, especially in Belarus. I have to bend myself and sincerity is sometimes used against me. But it is okay; we will survive.

Moldova

Reportage on Chisinau-Tiraspol Talks on Dniester

Talks Yield 'No Results'

AU1409155095 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, September 13 (INFOTAG) — Today's round of talks to settle the Dniester dispute yielded no results. The sides failed to achieve any progress in defining a legal status of the breakaway region due to principal differences with regard to the talks' main problem, a Dniester delegation member said to INFOTAG.

He requested to withhold his name, for negotiation participants had agreed to make no statements for the press. To a great disappointment of numerous journalists, who had waited for four hours in the corridor, the Moldovan delegation dispersed right after the talks, and the Tiraspol team got into cars and rushed away, having refused even to lunch in Chisinau.

The press secretaries of Snegur and Smirnov made an attempt to satisfy the media's natural curiosity. However, they also had not been allowed into the room, therefore maximum they could say was that "the sides failed to reach an agreement on the fundamental question, the status, but the negotiation process will be continued".

Unlike at previous summits, the sides have not signed a single paper today, not even a press communique. No date has been appointed for the next round, as was a tradition at previous meetings, though Chisinau and Tiraspol had earlier agreed to have contacts monthly. The above circumstances make observers presume that the next summit will be organized not very soon.

A Moldovan delegation member said to INFOTAG that "the Tiraspol team are taking their time seeking to wait till the December-due election to the Russian State Duma, and then to see what support of Moscow's they may count on."

In his opinion, the negotiations have come across new considerable barriers due to Smirnov's appearance in the State Duma last Saturday [9 September], when he had begged the deputies to recognize Dniester. That scandal caused a strong negative reaction in Chisinau.

The delegation member has stated that "the negotiations have practically reached a deadlock due to sides' stubbornness in the key problem. The Dniester leaders are demanding to recognize their statehood and suggested to sign a memorandum on the issue, while Chisinau is ready to grant to them an autonomy status with most broad plenary powers, but only in the framework of the Republic of Moldova. This principality prevents from solving other, simpler matters. For instance, the sides are actually ripe to achieve compromises in economic issues, in restoring the bridges across the Dniester ruined during the war, etc. But Tiraspol insists on guarantees in terms of the status, and status only in terms of the statehood. Hence, all efforts are brought to nought. We are in a closed circle which is unlikely to be broken in the near future," the official said.

When requested by INFOTAG to comment the negotiation results, Parliament Chairman Petru Lucinschi has

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replied shortly that "it's not me who is conducting the talks."

The negotiations were attended by representatives of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Permanent Mission to Moldova, and of the Russian Federation, as well as, for the first time ever, by a Ukrainian president's envoy.

OSCE Calls For Continued Talks

AU1409155695 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, September 13 (INFOTAG) — The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has appealed to Moldovan and Dniester leaders to continue seeking "speedy solutions so that all citizens will again prosper."

Mr. Laszlo Kovacs, OSCE chairman-in-office, sent a message to the leaders of Moldova "and its Dniester region," who held their meeting in Chisinau today. The document particularly points out "the progress you have made during meetings held on June 5 and July 5 in developing a settlement of the conflict which has divided you." This implies, in particular, the agreement on peacekeeping and security guarantees, the banking agreement, and an informal dialogue between individuals and groups.

"I urge you to follow through on the confidence-building measures envisaged in this agreement by beginning the restoration of bridges and ensuring the freer movement of people and goods on both sides of the Dniester."

While this step by step settlement process maintains commendable momentum, the OSCE chairman-in-office has expressed regret that "fundamental differences remain concerning the future status of Dniester within the internationally recognized boundaries of a sovereign and independent Moldova. At a time when signs of economic revival are evident, the continued political stalemate poses a burden which particularly impacts the Dniester region."

The message is assuring of the readiness of the OSCE Mission to Moldova "to continue and strengthen its cooperation with the Joint Control Commission in our mutual endeavour to resolve the conflict."

Snegur Attends Talks With Yeltsin Aide

LD1409164095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1452 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Valeriy Dimidetskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Presidential Assistant Dmitriy Ryurikov who arrived in Chisinau met on Thursday with Moldovan President Mircea Snegur and participants in the talks on the settlement of the Dniester conflict.

"President Boris Yeltsin closely follows the negotiating process as Russia is the mediator in it," Dmitriy Ryurikov told ITAR-TASS. He said President Yeltsin had instructed him to meet with the leadership of Moldova and of the Dniester region and with the command of the limited contingent of Russian troops stationed in the region. The information received during these meetings will be referred to the President.

Mircea Snegur expressed at the meeting the concern over the information in the press about transfer to armed units in the Dniester region of combat equipment and other property that belonged to the limited contingent of Russian troops in Moldova, ITAR-TASS was told by sources in the Moldovan leadership.

Snegur also expressed perplexity over the request of leader of the Dniester region Igor Smirnov for official recognition of the Dniester Republic which he made to deputies of the Russian State Duma last week. The participation of Russian troops in the celebration of the fifth anniversary of the proclamation of the republic on September 2-3 in Tiraspol is also negatively assessed in Chisinau.

Yeltsin Monitoring Progress of Talks

LD1409215795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2059 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, Sept 14 (INTERFAX) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin is monitoring the progress of talks on settlement in Transdniester, where Russia acts as a mediator, the presidential aide on foreign policy, Dmitriy Ryurikov, told journalists in Chisinau Thursday. Ryurikov had arrived in the city earlier this afternoon to look into the situation in the region.

According to Ryurikov, Yeltsin had asked him to meet both Moldovan and Transdniester leaders and the command of Russia's limited contingent there "to obtain first-hand information on the actual situation in the region."

The Moldovan presidential press office told INTERFAX that Ryurikov had met Moldovan President Mircea Snegur. Ryurikov reiterated Yeltsin's position in the conflict. He said the Russian president "unambiguously supported settlement of the conflict's after-effects in the interests of the population of both banks of the Dnestr and Moldova's territorial integrity."

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For his part, Snegur criticized Russia for the Transdniester leader Igor Smirnov's recent trip to Moscow and his speech in the State Duma on September 9. According to Snegur, this did not promote stabilization in Transdniester, as was later confirmed at yesterday's round of bilateral talks.

Politicians Reject Belarus President's CIS Proposal

AU1409181095 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 13/09/1995 (BASAPRESS) — Most Moldovan political parties disapprove of Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's statements made during his recent visit to Chisinau. He said then that a political-military bloc of the former Soviet republics is needed to counteract NATO's expansion to the East. Valeriu Matei, chairman of the United Democratic Congress and leader of the Democratic Forces Alliance, told BASA that Lukashenka's statements point to the tendencies to restore the Soviet Empire and smother the former Soviet states' independence and sovereignty. "The issue of constituting such a bloc traces back to 1992 to the summits of CIS heads of state. Its creation would reduce to naught the CIS states' possibility to promote any military, economic, foreign or domestic policy independently, even as part of the CIS Economic Union," said Matei. Anatol Taranu, Moldovan Social-Democratic Party chairman, told BASA that "if Moldova persists in pushing its economy eastward, it will end up in this military-political bloc. Lukashenka was absolutely right to say that feeding on certain energy sources we are obliged to participate in the protection of these sources," said Taranu. He said the only solution would be a radical change in the foreign and domestic policy in terms of diversifying raw materials and energy sources. In his opinion, it is early to give up the "neutral state" status, but "neutrality must be justified in political-economic terms." BASA learned from Parliament that at its recent sitting the permanent parliamentary bureau rejected the proposal to include the Bosnian issue in Parliament's agenda.

Duma Interference in Dniester Criticized

AU1409181695 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 13 Sep 95

[Commentary by INFOTAG: "Are We Tsar or No Tsar?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Chisinau, September 13 (INFOTAG) — The recent NATO bombings of Bosnian Serbs' positions, which have aggravated the Balkan crisis, caused a belated storm in Russian political upper strata. Last Friday [8 September], President Boris Yeltsin strongly condemned the NATO actions. The tonality of his remarks about "the North Atlantic sharks," which have been telecasted by all world TV networks, have vividly reminded everybody about the speeches of former Soviet leaders, particularly as pertains to the criticism against the overseas interference (of 'my friend Bill') into internal European affairs. Mr. Yeltsin has vaguely hinted that Russia is not going to be an indifferent onlooker watching NATO's expansion into Eastern Europe.

The political vagueness was not cleared either at the next-day hearing in the State Duma dedicated to the situation in former Yugoslavia. Emphasis was placed on the necessity to render an active help to Serbs — "the traditional allies and friends of Russia on the Balkans," and propositions were discussed to dismiss Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev who "betrayed Russian interests on the Balkans".

And though both Russian and foreign analysts doubt Moscow's ability to influence NATO's resoluteness to suppress rebel Bosnian Serbs, it is evident that the Moscow political elite have felt utterly stung. And, naturally, ambitions broke out. Peoples know, and some former Soviet Union (FSU) nations have already experienced it on their own skin, that when leaders lose their brains in anger, a trouble is inevitable.

On the other hand, we have many times seen that due to the high degree of inter-republican reliance in the FSU region, the aggravation of political tensions in Moscow often find its reflection in the independent Moldovan state with its bleeding Dniester wound. Examples are August 1991, October 1993 and all entailing developments. And the current internal Russian situation is carrying new accents and is forcing us to look afresh at possible evolution of events in Moldova, namely in its Dniester region. One can notice that Dniester leaders, having exhausted their habitual arguments (about Moldova's aggressiveness, its total Romanization and a soon-to-come unification with Romania, etc.) are showing more and more persistence in attempting to inspire Russians with the idea of transforming the separatist Dniester republic into "Russia's outpost on the Balkans."

With all the seeming absurdity of the idea (which Lieutenant General Lebed, ex-commander of the 14th Russian Army, has named laconically as "rubbish"), there will be no surprise if it finds a fertile soil among various Russian political parties, and put down roots.

The growing pre-election hysteria in Moscow may tempt somebody to "play the Dniester card" in the current Russian political gamesmanship, and the players may be even those whom Moldova regards as

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"democrats." For a proof, one may remember the telegramme of congratulation sent to Tiraspol by Igor Gaydar, leader of "The Choice of Russia" Bloc, on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the Dniester independence this early September. If even such democrats show sympathies to the break-away republic, then there is no need mentioning Zhuganov, Zhirinovskiy and miscellaneous "emperors" seeking state power.

Of course, one may have fun watching over TV the brawl in the Russian State Duma. But the fist-fighting broke out after the speaker (who is said to be in good friendly relations with our Parliament Chairman Lucinschi) have several times tried to give the floor to the leader of the self-proclaimed Dniester republic. Meanwhile, everybody in the room seemed to have forgotten that the sitting's topic was "Duma's attitude to the Balkan war." So, here you are, the rubbish.

One may offer an objection: Duma is of little importance in practical politics. Meanwhile, there is a firm stance of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (though Yeltsin is discontented about its making "concessions"), there is an agreement to withdraw the 14th Army (though Duma has not ratified it), and, finally, there are firm stands of the Russian president and prime minister (the latter is said to be a friend of Andrei Sangheli). The above and many other Russian statesmen claimed they stood up for the Moldovan territorial integrity, and considered the Dniester problem a purely domestic Moldovan affair.

All this may sound very well. But there also exist a struggle-for-power logics, empire-patriotic itching that plagued almost the entire Russian political spectrum, and geopolitical ambitions. There is also a feeling of insult of a great country which has unexpectedly found its impotence in the company of other great powers.

Finally, there are mountains of Russian weaponry in east Moldova notorious for its high crime statistics, there is General Yevnevich [new commander of Russian troops in Dniester], who is not General Lebed at all (whose tough character and actively negative attitude to the local leaders served a guarantee of stability for quite a time), and, finally, there is a Moscow-published information that the weaponry is being plundered and that the situation there is escaping control.

Restraining ourselves from tragic forecasts, one cannot help realizing that in such an environment the Dniester settlement is being pushed very far into the future. And the point here is not only in the toughness of the Tiraspol leaders who are happily using the Russian political passions for longer staying at power. It is in the fact that the Dniester republic, being a territory more or less controlled by Russia, is becoming objectively necessary for too many political forces seeking to remain at power, or to grasp it.

What will Moldova do in the new emerging situation, and how prepared is its diplomacy? We are speaking about diplomacy, for it is evident that no internal political efforts can bring the desired result here. Dniester settlement in the near future sounds like a utopia. Therefore, the task for the time being is to safeguard peace in the region, and to allow for no new armed conflict to break out.

It is evident also that protesting against Russian politicians' interference will not suffice, either. Like it is not sufficient to pray only for assistance of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE] the way it is done at present and restricted mainly to issuing recommendations concerning a possible legal status for Dniester. No, it is too late, and the former methods of work are non-convincing anymore.

Taking into consideration the new reality, why not thinking about organizing an international conference on the Dniester settlement — under the aegis of the OSCE, no later than this autumn, and with attendance of foreign ministers from leading European countries and all Moldova's neighbours? Perhaps, such a conference should be given a permanent status too, which would ensure the presence of international observers in the conflict zone, and would be restraining the conflict expansion.

Perhaps, it stands to reason to enhance diplomatic efforts along a Romania-Moldova-Ukraine axle, with a perspective to conclude a tripartite treaty on establishing a security and stability zone on the vast territory covered by the three states. This idea seems not totally irrelevant already because one pole of the axle borders Yugoslavia, and the other one contacts Russia with its aggravating geopolitical inferiority complex.

Other variants are possible, too. We cannot say now which of them will be the best. One thing is clear, so far: Showing a fist to a gone train may become the worst variant in the new environment, because the next step down may be only declaring a war against Russia.

Dniester Security Chief Refutes Possible Coup Rumors

AU1409181195 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 13/09/1995 (BASAPRESS) — "There is no reason to believe that the government may be overthrown. Former 14th Army Commander Aleksandr Lebed made such attempts, but they

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all were stopped just in time," Dniester Security Minister Vadim Shevtsov stated to BASA during a recess of today's Snegur-Smirnov meeting. General Shevtsov refused to give any further details as "it is not the time yet." In his opinion, "the current commander of the Russian mobile troops, Valeriy Yevnevich, on more constructive terms with the officials of the Moldovan Dniester Republic. Its essence resides in the fact that he is more concerned with the Russian troops' presence in the region and non-interference in the political developments in Dniester and Moldova." Shevtsov said his relations with the 14th Army Command concerned only his job and did not have repercussions on Dniester. He denied the reports by the Moscow daily MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS about transfers of Russian military equipment to Dniester paramilitary groups. Shevtsov added he would not bring a suit against the publication.

Pertaining to Chisinau-Tiraspol talks, Shevtsov said "the whole negotiations presuppose security guarantees for Dniester and Moldovan population. Everything is done to the best of the population." He also said political events in Russia would influence the situation in Dniester, adding he favoured none of the Russian political leaders as he was "in the exercise of duty."

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Kazakhstan

Tuyakbayev on New Procuracy Structure

954F3414A Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 9 Sep 95 p 2

[Interview with Zharmakhan Tuyakbayev, prosecutor general of Kazakhstan, by Tamara Kaleyeva; place and date not given: "New Priorities of the Procuracy—Legality in the Economy and Protection of the Weak"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our state's new constitution has changed the functions of the procuracy considerably. It will not henceforward be involved in the investigation of crimes. Its principal duty will be supervision of the observance of legality. Far from all is as it should be with us here.... The old problems and new tasks are the subject of an interview with Zharmakhan Tuyakbayev, prosecutor general of Kazakhstan.

[Kaleyeva] Zharmakhan Aytbayevich, the first thing in the offing at this time is, obviously, the procuracy's civilized "divorce" from investigation. For decades it was involved in the solution of particularly dangerous and heinous crimes. Who will your successor be?

[Tuyakbayev] This is for us, truly, the most urgent matter. The procuracy currently has 850 investigators. The uncertain prospects could, you will agree, evoke a natural desire to look around, find backup "airfields," and relocate there even, so it is very important to prevent an outflow of personnel. In the fight against crime, and this is no exaggeration, the personnel decides everything. In the coming days we believe that the procuracy's investigation departments should be transferred en masse to the MVD department, and it is sufficient for this to make the corresponding revision to the current Code of Criminal Procedure.

[Kaleyeva] Would this, in fact, simply be a change of signboard?

[Tuyakbayev] This change of signboard will enable us to retain the specialists.

In addition, the operational reassignment is a temporary measure, and a special investigating arm, independent of the executive, is to be created in the future, in January 1997, say. It will unite the operational-search machinery, investigation, the present offices for combating organized crime and corruption and economic crimes, and the criminal investigation department. And the MVD will in time deal with internal matters: maintain public order and the citizens' safety, and will retain the fire department and the State Automotive Inspection.

[Kaleyeva] Until then the MVD will be a kind of law enforcement monopoly operator?

[Tuyakbayev] And what is the procuracy for? We will monitor. Such a thoroughgoing reform cannot be carried out more rapidly, a great deal of preparatory work and considerable material outlays are required.

[Kaleyeva] Nonetheless, a year and a quarter is quite some time. If a crime is committed by a "big man," who will investigate him—the MVD, an executive structure?

[Tuyakbayev] We propose that matters having to do with officials of the highest echelons of power appointed and confirmed by the president, the prime minister, and parliament and also with police officers be retained up to January 1996 by the procuracy. For example, we recently looked into the petition of a citizen of Canada by way of supervision. We turned up very serious violations of objectivity in the investigation of a specific criminal case on the part of top officials of the MVD. It was not for the minister himself to investigate this matter, of course. An alternative organ of inquiry was needed, but we do not have such as yet. Such cases should temporarily, therefore, be investigated by the procuracy, I repeat, literally for a few months, until a special body for investigating crimes committed by senior officials of the organs of state power and administration has been formed. Various names for it are being suggested, meanwhile: National Bureau of Investigation, National Investigation Agency. The crimes of officers of the procuracy, which we have hitherto handled ourselves, should also be within its jurisdiction, incidentally.

[Kaleyeva] The idea of the incompatibility of the functions of investigation and supervision of the observance of legality had long been expressed by legal experts, so the constitution, it may be said, made it a reality. Nonetheless, how do you perceive the supposition that investigation was taken away from you because the General Procuracy had begun to "greatly indulge itself"? Last year you instituted a number of sets of criminal proceedings against top officials of the state. This did not, I recall, come easily, and it was not fortuitous that you were at that time called the Kazakhstani Cattani. You had been "intrepid" this year also. But the noise surrounding these cases has gradually died down, and the investigation will henceforward be beyond your jurisdiction so it is logical to concede that these cases will quietly be closed....

[Tuyakbayev] The noise was raised, you will agree, not by the procuracy but by the press on the basis of the material of parliamentary hearings, for which I do not reproach it, for that matter: This is the absolute right of the news media. The investigation into the "loud" cases, as you put it, is in the completion phase, and no one has attempted to wind them up. When the investigator

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puts them on my desk with a bill of indictment (this will, possibly, be very soon), and if I agree with the indictment, I shall sign a directive to the court, and then you may tell your readers: Such and such was established in the course of the pretrial investigation, and how far our charges correspond to reality, it is for the court to decide.

[Kaleyeva] Can this be taken as a promise?

[Tuyakbayev] Yes. And, on the whole, the suspicions that the reorganization of the procuracy has been brought about by someone's omnipotent desire to have a "pocket" investigation are so absurd that I have no wish to pay them any attention.

[Kaleyeva] I cited them lest we give the impression that we are glossing over some "shady motives." It is understandable that the main purpose of the coming differentiation is to increase supervision of the observance of legality. There are so many violations in this sphere at this time that it sometimes seems that they are ubiquitous.

[Tuyakbayev] I agree. Even such an elementary matter as the conformity to the law of legal prescriptive documents issued by the local authorities. A team of the General Procuracy traveled to Akmola Oblast recently and in three days discovered more than 80 such violations infringing the constitutional rights and liberties of the citizens, the right to entrepreneurship, and the right to ownership. We are turning up thousands of such instances. We issue an order for the elimination of the violations, and the next day new ones appear. Never has there been such nihilism in respect to the law. And people grow angry, what is more: "Why are you demanding that I cancel them, I am looking out for the state!"

[Kaleyeva] Even misunderstood considerations of state expediency may still be considered a valid reason. But what is absolutely unjustifiable is the behavior of some custodians of order at the time of detention and preliminary inquiry. People are beaten up by the police and intimidated, and money is extorted. There are many complaints about this, and it sometimes seems that the uniform is often donned by people with sadistic instincts.

[Tuyakbayev] Well, sadistic instincts is a clear exaggeration. I am not about to deny the instances of physical violence, although I could under no circumstances deem them general. On the contrary, we have so many splendid, selfless, and truly responsive decent officers! But what can you do, one black sheep will mar the whole flock, and the violations of the law on the part of people in uniform cannot be called a rarity. There are several reasons for this disgrace. People without education, without the minimum cultural base, from the street, it may be said, are joining the police at this time. The pay is low, the duties are stretched, and we cannot promise serious social benefits, so he does not treasure his position. He has worked for six months and has filled his pockets with the aid of extortion, he has been punished—he waives his hand and walks away. This is a global problem, and it can only be resolved fundamentally with the economic stabilization of society as a whole. In addition, crime is growing, and the demands on the police are increasing, and so they "beat out" confessions: to report the solution of a crime as quickly as possible and receive encouragement. It is hard to combat physical assault because it frequently takes place without outside witnesses. One detainee, three police officers, say. One of them beats him up, the others testify: Nothing of the sort, the detainee threw a fit here and banged his head against the wall himself.

[Kaleyeva] It is very distressing to hear such things from the prosecutor general. We have no protection, then, against such tyranny?

[Tuyakbayev] Nothing of the sort! In the first six months of this year alone criminal proceedings for service crimes were instituted against 141 police officers. Major Kushchev, senior divisional inspector of the Kokshetau City Internal Affairs Department, and Major Khisravshin, senior investigator of Shymkent's Abayskiy Rayon Internal Affairs Department, for example, were convicted of having accepted bribes, Bolgert, district operations officer of the Criminal Investigation Department of North Kazakhstan Oblast's Zhambylskiy Rayon Internal Affairs Department, and Murzabayev, police officer of the PPR [expansion unidentified], were convicted of physical violence during interrogations, and Chukenbayev, senior district operations officer of the Criminal Investigation Department of Taldykorgan Oblast's Borlitobinskiy Rayon, was convicted of the unlawful detention of two citizens and of fraud. There is protection, and effective protection at that. But people should apply to the procuracy for this. But, of course, such lawlessness can only be eradicated as a phenomenon with a rise in the overall level of education and the departmental control of the internal affairs authorities. I believe that there is much that could be radically changed now, when the procuracy has been detached from investigation. After all, the timeframe of crime detection previously "hung" over us also, and for this reason officers of the procuracy would in places look through their fingers at violations in the course of detention and preliminary inquiry: We need to move as quickly and as actively as possible! Eyes were quite often closed to the illegality of the original detention:

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People were brought in "just in case," suppose it is ascertained that they have had something to do with the crime. Nothing of the sort, it would turn out, and they would be released in three days—what's so terrible about this? But for the normal law-abiding person this is a shock. We are now confronted squarely with supervision of the legality of the original detention. In addition, the new Constitution records that a person must be provided with defense counsel the moment he is taken into custody.

[Kaleyeva] Is a mechanism of criminal procedure that rules out in principle deliberate, criminal violations of the law in operational-search activity possible? I put this question to you as the leader of the working group drafting a new Code of Criminal Procedure.

[Tuyakbayev] A question that is on the money, so to speak. It is essential to fundamentally revise our Code of Criminal Procedure with regard to the requirements of the new Constitution. We propose that the internal affairs authorities, as also other supervisory authorities like the tax inspectorate, customs, and the tax police, for example, retain the right of preliminary inquiry. Petty obvious crimes and offenses, when no serious pretrial investigation is needed and it is sufficient to content ourselves with preliminary inquiry, should be examined at the level of the municipal authorities and local justice authorities. And serious crimes, where an investigation and a mass of procedural pretrial actions are required, will be given to the special investigating authority which I mentioned at the start of our interview. Currently the process of inquiry and investigation is so cost-no-object oriented! It is with good reason that the expression "dragged around the courts" is still current. If a person happens to have been a witness, one set of questioning, another, yet another—by the officer conducting the inquiry, the investigator, the prosecuting attorney, the judge, and not just once either, verification of the deposition at the scene of the incident, confrontations with the suspects.... It is easier to immediately waive it all off: I saw nothing, I heard nothing. Even more for the aggrieved party, he is unfailingly questioned 10-15 times, the accused even more. A whole volume, more than just one, more often than not, is presented to the court with the prepared bill of indictment. There a new judicial investigation, right from the beginning. We propose for the majority of categories of proceedings that pretrial investigation as an intermediate option be dropped. A crime is obvious, there are witnesses, there is an aggrieved party, evidence—the officer conducting the inquiry assembles all the data, however contradictory, and they go to the prosecuting attorney. If the latter considers that the assembled material is sufficient for instituting criminal proceedings, it is transferred to the court, and the investigation is conducted in court. The prosecuting attorney, as the accuser, presents his evidence, the witnesses and the lawyer, theirs. There is real full-fledged judicial adversary pleading. The judge listens, forms his opinion, and issues a judgment and, if he deems it necessary, conducts an expert examination and other procedural actions. There will then be no exhausting investigatory carousel, no complaints: "They put pressure on me, beat me, they forced a confession out of me"—after all, the court simply does not require such preliminary confessions. And how many highly skilled specialists, who would handle the investigation in complex cases, making the correct determination of the nature of the crimes and correctly determining the interrogation tactics, would be freed up here!

[Kaleyeva] With the adoption of the new Constitution have there come to be new priorities in the sphere of supervision of execution of the laws?

[Tuyakbayev] First, I would like to make clear immediately that the new constitution contains the requirement that the procuracy keep an eye not on the execution, as before, but on the precise and uniform enforcement of the laws. "Execution" and "enforcement" are not synonyms for us. Everyone must execute the laws, it is mainly officials who enforce them. The framework of supervision has thus been made more specific: supervision of the actions of officials and the decisions they adopt. And, as a priority, we will continue to supervise the correct enforcement of the laws in the economic and social spheres. It is possible that we will form the corresponding structure for the protection of the legal rights of socially unprotected people, who for material or other reasons cannot defend themselves.

[Kaleyeva] And supervision of the investigation of "contract" killings? This "novelty" of criminal activity is intimidating society, particularly the entrepreneurs. The Council of Entrepreneurs of East Kazakhstan writes to the paper that business circles have become a group at increased risk and demands special protection.

[Tuyakbayev] Entrepreneurs are, truly, subject to particular risk because they themselves are frequently on the brink of criminal proceedings. This is a big and complex subject and requires a separate comprehensive discussion.

[Kaleyeva] Many aspects of the activity of the procuracy require a separate discussion in general, in my opinion. You have merely mentioned legality in the sphere of the economy, yet this is very important. I would like to talk a little about justice—it is well known that judges take bribes, and there are even more rumors about this. The "camp law"—governing places of imprisonment—is, in my view, simply a burning issue. And a topic from the

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moral-legal category, which I have roughly formulated as "the power and the destitution of the prosecuting attorney." And, of course, corruption and graft, which is growing and which is hard to prove, extortion.... Perhaps we can enter them on the long-term plan?

[Tuyakbayev] Agreed.

[Kaleyeva] Then thank you and until new meetings.

Seydumanov on Party-Political Development

954F3423A Almaty NOVOYE POKOLENIYE in Russian Sep 95 No 32, p 7

[Interview with Serik Seydumanov, member of the bureau of the Democratic Party of Kazakhstan and manager of the DPK staff, by Yerzhan Karabek; place and date not given: "Our Party Is Not Afraid of Competition"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Karabek] Serik Turarovich, the DPK [Democratic Party of Kazakhstan] was registered officially literally after the adoption of the new Constitution.... In this connection, it would be nice to know your opinion concerning the condition of party construction in Kazakhstan.

[Seydumanov] After the destruction of the one-party political system in Kazakhstan, despite the well-known reaction to the word "party," the process of forming a multiparty system was started in one way or another. We recall.... Political self-expression in the initial period of post-Soviet development in the republic was in its way typical. One group chose national values, and another—international values. Not reckoning with reality, they proclaimed the beautiful ideas of liberal democracy—the individual is free, and there is nothing better for him than a "civil society." Today, all trends in one or another degree avoid radicalism. Political parties have appeared that grew out of social movements. In a word, a definite dynamic and crystallization of the party system as a whole is present. But it is too early to talk about a completed party system, inasmuch as society itself is still not totally constructed. The creation of new systems and new parties is under way. That is, that which usually signifies and accompanies a transition period is occurring. Moreover, the dynamics are such that at a certain stage one party is at the center of political and public attention, and at the next stage it is another party. But in the final analysis, when the structuring crosses a certain threshold, the time will arrive for the formation of blocs, associations, and unions at a new qualitative level. As a result of this, the classic system of the average developed country takes shape, inasmuch as general regularities in the development of a political system exist for those that choose the democratic path. Two to three large political parties or blocs (groups) should remain. One in power, and the other in opposition, thrashing it.

[Karabek] Since we have begun talking about classical schemes, allow me to mention that we have an excess of parties standing on centrist positions. We have both the PNEK [Party of National Unity of Kazakhstan] and the NKK [People's Congress of Kazakhstan] and, finally, our DPK. But, after all, it has been known for a long time that policy, especially domestic policy, cannot be made through the efforts of one center....

[Seydumanov] Centrism, as we believe, is the most acceptable and necessary path for the development of our society. As for the left-wingers and others.... What, for example, are the left-wingers bringing to the people? Slogans in defense of the poor strata, slogans for returning the guarantees that existed for health services and education under socialism. We also have such aims, so it turns out that the left-wingers are also closer to the center! But we, in contrast to the extreme flanks operating on the political field today, are realistically examining the situation and intend to assist the construction of the very same system of social protection according to the new conditions on which all of us, incidentally, depend in the same way: whether we are democrats, whether we are communists, whether we are nationalists.... Nonetheless, we are in no way planning to reject everything that was good in our country in the recent past. It is not a question of populist slogans, but of who will better and more quickly help the process of helping people adapt to the new conditions. It is then that a normal electoral approach will take effect, but our party does not fear competition with any flank, or with any centrist party. We have a certain unity with the latter, but there are also differences. We are guided by, and this means we personify, the interests of several specific groups of the population. I supervise the executive secretariat of the Assembly of Peoples of Kazakhstan, and I am associated with the activity of the National Cultural Center. There are several representatives of the NKTs [National Cultural Center] in the bureau in our country. Accordingly, we defend and pursue the interests of all ethnic communities—this is first. Second: Our membership includes many state officials, including those holding important ranks. It is not necessary to conceal anything here, and even more so to fear anything. These are personnel managers, and they have experience and ability. It can be said that this is the golden capital not only of the party, but of the state as well. Third: We are supported very significantly by the large industrial-production board of directors. And, finally, fourth. A substantial part of the intellectual elite of the country is on our side—they are representatives of the scientific-technical and the

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humanitarian-creative intelligentsia, which is indicated by the list of members of the Organizational Committee and the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Kazakhstan. But the other parties and movements are oriented on narrow groups and strata of the population. The communists find their own social base in the environment of pensioners and "nostalgically" inclined people. For example, the Party of National Unity of Kazakhstan [Partiya narodnogo yedinstva Kazakhstana], which we treat with respect; nevertheless, they have not yet taken a position with their own electorate, with their base. And at present its strength is only in a certain orderliness: a bureau, a central committee, oblast committees, city committees, and its own press organ. But this is not enough today....

Our party has just announced itself. We did not conduct and are not conducting a propaganda campaign. In the past period of time all forces were devoted to constitutional reform. Two members of the central committee of the DPK participated directly in elaboration of the draft of the adopted constitution. Now on the agenda are parliamentary elections, in which the party will demonstrate its position. We have confidence in ourselves, because the intellectual potential of the party is strong. Our information- analytical support is practically unrivalled. Now it remains only to bring purely organizational questions to a conclusion.

[Karabek] Nevertheless, Serik Turarovich! The selfsame PNEK continuously announces itself as a pronounced centrist party. And it is understandable that there is no particular ideological struggle between them and you, because the aims and tasks coincide in general features, and even the strategic direction is the same—to support the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan and his policy. And this also is understandable; after all, let well enough alone. But apparently, according to the logic of political life, someone has to "make room." If the center is represented by several large parties, this already will be a splitting up....

[Seydumanov] ....of the center itself, is that not so?

[Karabek] That is precisely the point....

[Seydumanov] You know, for parties that profess similar ideas and objectives, there is always a compromise in the form of association into a bloc. But the competition will occur in the ability to analyze, clarify, and anticipate problems for their subsequent resolution. But this is already a question of intellectual support, breadth of mental outlook, and professionalism. The main thing is to be able to realize one's aspirations in the campaign for power while being at the levers of power in parliament, and generally in daily occurrences. For this we have the desire, the personnel, and the means.

[Karabek] Does this mean that you, as a member of the bureau of the DPK, look at the party development of our society rather optimistically?

[Seydumanov] Unequivocally! We established our party after studying the entire spectrum of political currents and attitudes in the republic. One of our objectives is rationalization of the development of the state. After all, we are all for the market. Agreed? Even someone who is today experiencing difficulties and does not want to return to the past. It is another matter that everyone is fed up with a "wild market" that is not controlled and leads to destitution.... Everyone is striving for another market in which inflation is stabilized and an increase in production will occur, which will bring the country prosperity. We are for such a market. The government is also. Therefore, today as never before, there is a need for flexibility and the ability to use one or another approach and mechanism in a timely way. In other words, to have a quick reaction, and not to wait for one unresolved problem to inevitably engender the next. I think that in this sense our party (I hope not only ours!) will begin to seriously help those structures on which a final decision depends. We hope that our voice will be heard and be useful. For example, the party introduced nine amendments to the Constitution, in whose consideration we took a very direct part, eight of which ended up in the final text of the Basic Law. So this shows the specific effectiveness of the work of the party.

[Karabek] Incidentally, what is happening on the question of linking the outlook of party construction with the new Constitution? This is in regard to the article on party affiliation of state employees....

[Seydumanov] Yes, Article 5 caused a definite stir. Although in my view it is clear. The question concerns the impermissibility of merging sociopolitical and state institutions. Nothing more.... There is not a word about membership. Let us assume that I, a worker in the presidential apparatus, am at the same time a member of the DPK, but I do not have the right to establish a party organization within the walls of this structure, and this is also not permitted for members of other political organizations. In territorial districts—certainly. Let us take, conditionally, Sovetskiy Rayon of Almaty. A rayon organization of the DPK is established, and everyone who is in it assembles outside the walls of the state institution. That is, as such no prohibition exists against membership for so and so in any party he likes. In this respect, my civil rights have not been encroached upon. The only thing is that it is necessary first and foremost to observe state policy and defend general state interests. All of this is clearly regulated and fixed in the Basic Law. In addition, a law will soon come out concerning state service. Many, not understanding its

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essence, have incorrectly interpreted this article of the Constitution.... But I believe that it is necessary first of all to be a citizen and only then to be a party member according to one's conviction....

[Karabek] Everything has been scheduled to the year 2000 in our country, and it appears that there are guidelines. What do you think, what will happen in the party-political arena during this time?

[Seydumanov] Only the large players will be left on the field; that is, political parties.... But in principle, the current year will be very tense. Afterwards some calm is possible before the presidential elections. The final structuring should occur in this time period (up to the year 2000). There is a probability that some parties will disappear, or will merge. Some kind of special stormy party life can hardly be foreseen. However, forces of a certain understanding could break through onto a political field that is free from the struggle for power. There are sure to be efforts to revive problems in the public conscience that have already resulted in a different approach and understanding. For example, of an ethnic-territorial nature. This is the migration of a certain part of the population of Kazakhstan, the Cossacks. In addition, a new player will appear on the field—parliament. And parliament, besides everything else, is an official place, let us put it this way, for lobbying.

But on the whole, as I have already said, a rather stable division of forces will occur, and two or three large parties, or two or three associations, will come out of the general mass. Even more profound changes will occur in society itself. The stratum of rich people will increase, and do you think that they will not long to get into power, including political power? These facts have to be taken into account. There will be both a left and right flank. So anything can happen. While up to now we have navigated all the reefs without dangerous shocks thanks to our president as a personality and an organizer, in the next stages there should be other insurance, because he cannot always carry the load. It is not only the chief of state and his structures that ensure calm and progressive movement. The main thing is to know when and why a crisis could occur. The party, reinforcing presidential authority and the system of representation, will create the guarantees for stability in society.

Nevertheless, only time will show with what baggage we enter the year 2000. It is difficult, you will agree, in our stormy epoch to make a forecast for five years into the future.... As for the Democratic Party, the next bureau will be held in the near future, at which, in addition to the usual organizational questions we will certainly examine vital questions of the day.

[Karabek] Thank you for the interview. I wish you fruitful work for the good of our country.

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Armenia

Yerevan Achieves Disarmament Progress at Karabakh Talks

LD1409215895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1940 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, Sept 14 (INTERFAX) — Armenia achieved the introduction of a number of provisions on the security of Nagorno-Karabakh in the draft settlement agreement with Azerbaijan, Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Vardan Voskanyan, the head of Armenia's delegation to the latest round of peace talks in Moscow, told a news conference in Yerevan Thursday [14 September].

However, Voskanyan declined to specify what kind of provisions had been introduced.

According to Voskanyan, the Moscow talks focused on one of the four proposed protocols to the agreement. In part, the document envisions the creation of a disengagement line and a buffer zone for the deployment of peacekeepers.

Voskanyan underlined that the Armenian delegation had been able to achieve progress on disarmament, withdrawal of heavy arms and their concentration in special locations.

Nevertheless, Voskanyan added that a number of key provisions remained unsettled. "They require discussion at a higher level," he said.

Deputy Foreign Minister on Moscow Karabakh Talks

NC1409210695 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1800 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Vardan Oskanyan held a news conference at the Foreign Ministry today. Our colleague Gevorg Asaturyan reports:

[Begin recording] [Asaturyan] As we had already reported in one of our previous casts, regular talks for the solution of the Karabakh problem were held in Moscow 4-9 September under the aegis of the OSCE Minsk Group. Deputy Foreign Minister Vardan Oskanyan was heading the Armenian delegation at the talks. Minister Oskanyan said the following on the talks:

[Oskanyan] I cannot specifically state on which issues we have agreed, but I can indicate the framework of those issues which we have discussed. There was talk on the geography of the present confrontation line; on matters relating to the disengagement of the two sides — talks on this issue should lead to the formation of a [word indistinct] zone where the peacekeeping forces will be stationed; on the withdrawal of the sides' heavy arms and their assembly points; on the concept of a conflict zone and its geographic coordinates; on a flight restriction zone; and on matters relating to the demilitarization of the conflict zone and the reduction of arms.

[Asaturyan] In connection with the results of the talks in Moscow, Mr. Oskanian said the following:

[Oskanyan] The cease-fire has been holding for more than one and half years now, they [the Minsk Group members] believe that the political conditions are now quite conducive for the peaceful resolution of the problem. On the one hand, the more than one-and-half-year-long cease-fire is a positive phenomenon, but on the other hand they are seriously concerned that a lack of any serious progress at the talks during this period in itself is fraught with the serious danger of the resumption of war.

[Asaturyan] Asked what is the difference between deploying a peacekeeping or a disengagement force, Mr. Oskanyan replied that they are essential the same force which should be deployed in the so-called [word indistinct] disengagement zone. Asked if Turkey is expecting a final resolution to the Karabakh problem through political pressure being applied on the Karabakh officials by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, Vardan Oskanyan said that this is an erroneous opinion and Armenia has never applied any pressure on Karabakh officials.

The second part of Mr. Oskanyan's news conference was devoted to the Council of Europe's 24th [words indistinct] meeting in Venice held after the Moscow talks. [end recording]

Iranian Ambassador on Ties, Russia, Karabakh

NC1409205195 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1800 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iranian Ambassador to Armenia Hamid Reza Negar-Esfahani has highly appraised Russian-Iranian ties and underlined their importance, particularly as regards the establishment of peace in the region. In mostly dwelling on the Karabakh conflict, the ambassador considered as unrealistic efforts to involve other forces in this issue. He said a real peace could be achieved in Karabakh only by taking into account the regional configuration. He did not hesitate to add that those countries which do not have an intrinsic understanding of the region and only pursue their own interests cannot establish peace in Karabakh. In considering Russia and Iran as the only countries capable of establishing peace in Karabakh, Mr. Negar-Esfahani

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said about Russia that she formulates her policies by taking into account the ties between the two countries, namely Russia and Iran, and the regional realities. The Ambassador reiterated Iran's desire to resolve the conflict through talks, asserting that the initiative for peace and talks in the region has always come from Iran.

As regards the economic development of the region, the ambassador underlined the importance of the ongoing tripartite talks between Armenia, Iran, and Turkmenistan, whose next high-level meeting is planned to be held in Yerevan. He said that the tripartite talks and cooperation between Iran, Armenia, and Turkmenistan are the best example of the regional cooperation which will help improve and raise the living standards of the three peoples. The ambassador did not forget Russia in this instance, adding that Iran believes good prerequisites exist for Russia to express willingness to participate in this cooperation.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Discusses Karabakh With UN Envoy

NC1409152895 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1300 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev received today UN Secretary-General's assistant Aldo Agello. Seyyad Aghbabali reports:

[Begin recording] [Aghbabali] The meeting showed that contrary to some claims, reports, and commentaries, Mr. Aldo Agello's visit to our republic does not aim at investing the UN with a mediatory role for the resolution of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, something Azerbaijan does not propose. The UN Secretary-General's assistant noted that the UN supports the role of OSCE and its Minsk Group for the settlement of the conflict.

Referring to his impressions from the recently concluded Moscow talks, Aldo Agello noted the need to intensify efforts for the resolution of the conflict and stated that the UN will always assist in this process. The aim of his present visit was to ascertain the sides' positions on the resolution of the conflict and to inform the UN Secretary-General on the work already accomplished.

Geydar Aliyev pointed out that Armenia has thus far not implemented the four resolutions adopted on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by the UN Security Council, and that so far there exist no mechanisms to implement them.

The president then briefed the guest in detail on the work being done within the Minsk Group framework and on attempts to speak from a position of power at the talks, and reiterated Azerbaijan's position:

[Aliyev] On our part we are working to make use of this period for the complete cessation of the war and to establish a reliable peace. For that we have taken very constructive steps, we have already made and are ready to make, some compromises. However, we can never abandon or withdraw from our positions on principal issues.

[Aghbabali] Our head of state then briefed Aldo Agello in detail on Armenia's aggression and spoke on the importance of OSCE activity and of the Budapest summit meeting.

Indicating that the resolutions adopted on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict are basically declarative in nature, the UN Secretary-General's assistant hoped that the conflict will be resolved within the OSCE Minsk Group framework. He also noted that a meeting between President Heydar Aliyev and Butrus-Ghali during the UN's 50th anniversary celebrations could help solve the problem.

President Geydar Aliyev reiterated his support for the peaceful resolution of the conflict, noting at the same time that the occupiers and those who are trying to save themselves from the occupiers should be identified and taken into account while approaching this problem. All UN members are under obligation to abide by international law. [end recording]

UN Secretary-General's assistant Aldo Agello was also received today by the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Rasul Guliyev.

World Bank Providing $83 Million to Azerbaijan

LD1409215295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2102 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, Sept 14 (INTERFAX) — Azerbaijani Prime Minister Fuat Guliyev and World Bank Vice President Wilfried Thalwitz signed an agreement on the World Bank extending to Azerbaijan a rehabilitation credit and providing to Azerbaijan technical assistance for the implementation of structural reforms in the economy.

Azerbaijan will receive $65 million under the first agreement and $18 million under the second agreement.

Earlier, Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev received the World Bank's vice president and said that he was satisfied with the development of cooperation between Azerbaijan and the World Bank. Taking into account the two latest agreements, the World Bank has given Azerbaijan credits worth over $160 million.

Aliyev said he considered this as the World Bank's approval of the democratic reforms in Azerbaijan. Aliyev

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said he hoped that cooperation between Azerbaijan and the World Bank would acquire "a larger scale" in the future.

Thalwitz said the World Bank intended to open its permanent office in Baku in December.

Ambassador Discusses Implementing Tehran-Baku Pacts

LD1309123395 Tehran IRNA in English 1138 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, Sept. 13, IRNA — Tehran-Baku cooperation for implementation of letters of understanding already inked by the two countries was the topic of discussion between Iranian ambassador to Baku, 'Ali Reza Bigdeli and Azeri parliament speaker, Yashar Aliyev, here Tuesday.

Aliyev who is also the Azeri head of the Iran-Azerbaijan Joint Commission, describing the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan as "chaotic", called for Iran's help in solving the problems of the republic.

Both sides also stressed the necessity of solving problems of cross border traffic of travellers and easing customs formalities enforced by the two countries.

Among other topics featuring at the meeting were ways of facilitating travel of Iranian and Azeri traders, Azerbaijan's outstanding debts to Iran and construction of a railroad between the city of Astara in Azerbaijan republic and the Iranian city with the same name.

At the end of the meeting, both sides agreed to pay a visit to the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan and Azerbaijan' southern borders with Iran in a bid to probe problems existing in those areas.

Official Denies Making Remarks Against Iran

LD1309120095 Tehran IRNA in English 1120 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, Sept 13, IRNA — Azeri president's advisor in charge of foreign policy, Vafa Qolizadeh has said that the prospect of Tehran-Baku relations is bright.

Meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Azerbaijan Ali Reza Bigdeli, he stressed that consolidated historical and religious ties between the two countries have led to the development of bilateral friendly relations.

Referring to the smear campaign launched by enemies of the two countries, he categorically denied foreign press claims about his remarks in Washington.

Commenting on the vast potentials existing in both countries, the Iranian ambassador underlined the need to carry out agreements reached between the two sides in order to promote bilateral ties.

Russian press recently published remarks they claimed to have been made by Qolizadeh in Washington during a meeting with U.S. officials against the Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia.

In a press conference held last month in Baku, the Azeri official announced that he had never said anything against Iran during his Washington visit.

Georgia

Chernomyrdin Arrives, Met by Shevardnadze

LD1509085295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0840 GMT 15 Sep 95

[By Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tbilisi, September 15 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin arrived in Georgia for an official visit today. He was met at the Tbilisi Airport by Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze.

It is planned to sign six agreements on the results of the visit, a source in the Russian delegation told Tass. These include a treaty on mutual legal support in civil, criminal and family cases, an agreement on the coordination of activities in the sphere of railway traffic, an agreement on merchant navigation and two intergovernmental agreements: on the guarantee of rights in the sphere of pension support and on cooperation and mutual assistance in currency and export control. Chernomyrdin is being accompanied in his trip by Vice-Prime Ministers Aleksandr Zaveryukha and Aleksey Bolshakov, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov.

Shevardnadze Denies Massing Troops on Abkhaz Border

LD1409165095 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1455 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tbilisi, 14 Sep — A tete-a-tete meeting of Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov was held in Tbilisi this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Answering a question about a letter that [Leonid] Lakerbaia, the foreign minister of the Abkhaz separatists has sent to the United Nations and the command of the Russian peacekeeping forces, which alleges that the Georgian side has concentrated 1,200 fighters along the border with Abkhazia in order to forcibly seize Gali

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district from Abkhazia on 15-16 September, the head of state said:

"Lakerbaia must have his own sources of information. One should be very imaginative to think of such a thing."

Answering a question about establishing a CIS bloc opposing NATO, Shevardnadze said: "We have not come to this issue yet. We still have more acute issues."

Troop Transfer to Abkhazia 'Intensified'

LD1409120995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1048 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sukhumi, Sept 14 (INTERFAX) — Georgia has intensified the illegal transfer of its armed formations to villages in Abkhazia's Gali region, so that these formations are now 1,200 strong, the Abkhazian Foreign Minister stated Wednesday [13 September].

According to INTERFAX sources, in a letter to the Chief of Staff of the CIS joint peacekeeping force in Abkhazia, Pavel Kuzimchak, and the head of the U.N. military observers' mission in Abkhazia, Abkhazian Foreign Minister Leonid Lakerbaya writes that "the purpose of concentrating well-trained militants and a large amount of weapons in the Gali region is to cut off this region from Abkhazia, presumably on September 16 or 17, and join it to Georgia."

The letter also says that according to Abkhazia's sources, the militants located in the Gali region are to be reinforced with Georgia's army units.

Lakerbaya urged Russia's peacekeeping forces and U.N. observers to take all the necessary measures to disarm and oust from Abkhazia the Georgian armed groupings located in the Gali region.

"Otherwise, Abkhazia will have to take measures ensuring its security," writes Lakerbaya.

Peacekeeping Official on Return of People to Gali

LD1409123195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1048 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sukhumi, Sept 14 (INTERFAX) — Chief of staff of the CIS peace-keeping contingent in Abkhazia, Major-General Pavel Kuzimchak said that around 1,000 people had returned over the past few days to the Gali District of Abkhazia from the Zugdidi direction.

In an interview with INTERFAX General Kuzimchak said that nobody possessing arms had been registered among them. According to him, provocations in the Gali District are possible every day and peace-keepers are doing their best to ensure the refugees' safe return: high combat alert was introduced, military technology was used and a round-the-clock duty schedule was introduced at observation posts and at all the crossings of the Inguri River which amounts to about 60. Enforced patrols in the security zone were also ordered.

Abkhaz Deputy Prime Minister's Killers Arrested

LD1409151495 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1200 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A joint emergency meeting of the Abkhaz parliament and government started in Sukhumi yesterday. The meeting heard reports by the the Abkhaz minister of internal affairs, and the prosecutor general in connection with the murder of Yuriy Voronov. The Abkhaz authorities have arrested two suspected murderers of Yuriy Voronov, the Abkhazian deputy prime minister and leader of the Russian community of Abkhazia. The authorities arrested the suspects a few hours after the murder; a relative of the deceased witnessed the crime. [passage omitted]

Abkhaz Parliament Speaker Sokrat Jinjolia has denied saying that the Georgian Government is behind the murder, as alleged by some reports. Jinjolia said that this is a fabrication disseminated by journalists. It is too early to draw conclusions, and although it is impossible to say that a Georgian connection can be identified in the crime, we cannot rule out this version completely, Jinjolia said. [passage omitted]

Source Offers Motive, Voronov Opposed Mosque

LD1409173595 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Referring to a reliable source close to Abkhaz separatists, CONTACT news agency reports that the so-called council of ministers of Abkhazia heard at its meeting at the end of August a report by a representative of a foreign firm about plans to build a mosque in the town of Gudauta. Only Yuriy Voronov was against the proposition. This caused an extremely sharp negative reaction among the participants in the meeting. One of the participants said that the decision had been taken by the presidium of the Caucasian Peoples' Confederation and it was not subject to discussion. The above-mentioned source does not rule out that the incident could have become an occasion for the terrorist act committed in Sukhumi [when Voronov was killed].

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BALTIC STATES

Estonia

President Meri on NATO Security, Yeltsin Statements

LD1409216695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1817 GMT 14 Sep 95

[Report by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: No 176 (920)]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Lennart Meri considers NATO a security guarantee of his country. In an INTERFAX interview he commented on his recent official visit to Sweden. He said the two countries have different solutions to the problem. "Unfortunately, the road of neutrality chosen by Sweden is unacceptable for us. NATO is a firm security guarantee for Estonia," he stressed.

Meri regretted recent declarations of Russian politicians against Estonian membership in NATO. "I think foreign policy is used for home policy objectives in this case," he said. In his opinion such a policy is capable of producing short-term effects but in the long run it will only undermine international confidence. "It can create the impression that the Russian Federation is nothing but the former Soviet Union in a somewhat modernized form", the president said.

"I know that is not true. There is the press in the Russian Federation, a very acute election struggle in which means are not always properly chosen, unfortunately. Populist statements are also often used. I am very sorry that the Russian leadership is using populism to reach its objectives," Meri said.

"Today such declarations can be attributed to the election campaign, but sooner or later suspicions will appear about the true aims of such a strategy and this will strengthen the desire to find a solution that would guarantee the security of the state," the president is convinced.

In his opinion security guarantees on its western frontier are in the interests of Russia itself. This is possible only if Russia borders on democratic countries. NATO is a defense organization uniting democratic states.

The president thinks that Estonia should not leave unnoticed statements by leading Russian politicians that could undermine Estonia's international standing in one way or another. But this reaction should be calm. "I would not want to remind you that President Yeltsin treats NATO quite toughly, if not aggressively," Meri said.

In his opinion Yeltsin's statements on Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have been more balanced. "I would not want to draw from this the conclusion which would create an absolutely false impression that Yeltsin holds a negative attitude to NATO, not Baltic countries. We have notified our neighbors that we want to progress from the Partnership for Peace program to full NATO membership. The bad things said about NATO also apply to us and the good things said about us apply to NATO countries," Lennart Meri said.

Minister Urges Early Application for EU Membership

WS1509104695 Tallinn BNS in English 0957 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Visby, Gotland, Sweden, Sept 14, BNS — Estonia must adopt a decision by next year at the latest regarding its further steps toward joining the European Union and make a clearly-worded statement on applying for membership, the country's foreign minister said.

Foreign Minister Riivo Sinijarv, in remarks on the Swedish island of Gotland during a state visit by Estonian President Lennart Meri, said Estonia must hand in its application for EU membership before next year's EU intergovernmental conference.

Estonia must also step up foreign political activity to seek early ratification by other countries of the Europe Agreement signed by Estonia in June this year.

At the same time work must continue on preparing the country for membership, the minister added.

"All Estonian laws must be brought into correspondence with EU requirements and we must see to it that nothing is left undone, which could throw our membership into question," Sinijarv said. "If that work is properly done, it would possible for Estonia to become a EU member still in this century," he said.

Sinijarv had talks during the presidential visit with his Swedish counterpart Lena Hjelm-Wallen, with whom he discussed matters related to Estonia's movement toward EU membership and ratification of the Europe Agreement by Sweden.

He said Sweden had lent support to Estonia's membership aspirations at several EU meetings.

"Sweden has been constantly our advocate when the issues of EU enlargement and our admission have been discussed," he said. "We need someone to help us and Sweden has done it."

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Defense Ministry To Buy Polish Weapons

WS1509101195 Tallinn ETA in English 0751 GMT 15 Sep 95

[From 15 September EESTI PAEVALEHT, p 1 ; "News Bulletin" No 183]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Defence Ministry chancellor Robert Leppikson [spelling of name as received] concluded preliminary weapons purchase agreements during his visit to Poland. He commented the plans to buy assault rifles, machine guns and ammunition as partly successful. The chancellor declined from announcing details of the amount of weapons or ammunition, explaining that the Polish weapons will have to pass tests first. Leppikson hoped that the agreements will be signed soon. He added that he had had a number of high-level meetings with Polish defence minister and chief of general staff, as well as representatives of three weapons plants.

Prime Minister Expresses Support for Economy Minister

LD1409220095 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Tiit Vahi is certain that the vote of no confidence in Economy Minister Liina Tonisson, which has been initiated in the Riigikogu, does not endanger the government coalition's unity. However, the government coalition politicians have protested sharply against the attempts to sell the state joint-stock company Silmet to the Russian capital. Peeter Lorents, chairman of the State Defense Commission, and Endel Lippmaa, minister for European affairs, both of the Party of Consolidation, have spoken up on this subject. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Vahi] When it comes to the opposition's motion of no confidence in Liina Tonisson, I do not think this is serious. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] So may I conclude that when the Riigikogu begins to vote on no confidence, the Party of Consolidation faction will support Mrs. Tonisson?

[Vahi] Definitely. [end recording]

Latvia

Minister Signs Cooperation Pact With Germany

LD1409145895 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Riga today, German Ambassador Dr. Reinhard Holubek, and the Latvian Finance Minister Indra Samite signed an agreement on consultations and cooperation over the next five years. This is what Finance Minister Indra Samite said about the (?significance) of the activities already begun:

[Begin Samite recording] There has been support for business activities since 1992, with cooperation between the chambers of trade of [words indistinct], so this assistance has been support for the development of Latvia's economic (?self-sufficiency). Also coming about are the Riga Technological Center, with an information support center.

There is also (?progress in) standardization and quality assurance, the main purpose of which is to prepare those normative regulations and conditions that are necessary for us to be able to sell goods in Europe and on international markets, goods that meet all international requirements. For small and medium-sized businesses, educational and qualification-raising measures have been organized, in trading and industrial (?ecology).

Extremely significant consultations that (?started about a year ago) are in support of the Privatization Agency, based on the experience of West and East Germany, which is also being applied to Estonia, and which even now is helping us in Latvia in administering the privatization (?center).

In the agrarian sector, in agriculture, there are [word indistinct] projects, which include education and improvement of qualifications for directors and specialists, as well as consultations at the Ministry of Agriculture about agrarian policy and about organizing cooperation. So as you can appreciate, cooperation has been extremely broad and has been in the areas of reform that have been most significant for us in the past three years. [end recording]

Three Conservative Parties Sign Coalition Agreement

LD1309211695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2006 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] RIGA, Sept 13 (INTERFAX) — Three conservative Latvian parties entered into a coalition on Wednesday with the aim of forming a more conservative government after the parliamentary election of September 30 and October 1.

The three are the National Conservative Party, the Movement for the National Independence of Latvia and the Latvian Peasant Union, which have signed a coalition accord. An understanding has also been reached for the Union of Christian Democrats and the Green Party to join the alliance.

Thirty-six members of the three parties that have signed the agreement form a so-called National Bloc in today's

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100-seat parliament. They demand a tougher law on citizenship than the existing one and other laws to restrict noncitizens' rights. Most of them last year blocked ratification of Russian-Latvian accords on some aspects of Russian troops' withdrawal from the Baltic country.

Opinion polls whose returns have been published in the Latvian press suggest that the country's most popular party is today the Latvian Peasant Union, 22% of those questioned having expressed the desire to vote for it.

The Movement for the National Independence of Latvia is more popular now than it was during the last election of summer 1993 — 17% of those polled expressed support for it. The Movement, in coalition with the Greens, won the last municipal elections in spring 1994 in many parts of the country, including Riga.

The rating of the ruling Latvian Path, which won 36 seats in parliament at the last election, has somewhat gone down. Only about 18% of those surveyed said they were willing to vote for it.

The leaders of the three member parties of the new coalition, at a news conference on Wednesday, excluded the possibility of cooperation with the Latvian Path after the election.

Committee Releases Foreign Trade Statistics

WS1409095795 Tallinn BNS in English
1509 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Sep 13, BNS — The Latvian foreign trade turnover noteably increased in the first seven months of this year, while import still prevailed over export, the State Statistics Committee reported.

In the first seven months of this year, Latvia exported 378.6 million lats in goods, which is 26.9 percent more than in the same period in 1994, and imported 488.2 million lats, which is 30.2 percent more.

The difference between total import and total export grew larger — import exceeded export 29 percent compared to 25.7 percent in the first seven months of last year.

The role of the European Union countries in the export structure increased from 36.7 percent to 47.2 percent, while the EU import grew from 36.8 percent to 51.5 percent.

Latvia sent 36.9 percent of its total export to the CIS compared 43.3 percent in the first seven months of 1994.

The CIS import reduced from 31.7 percent last year to 27.5 percent this year.

In the first seven months of this year, Latvia exported mainly timber and its produce which made up 27.9 percent of all export.

The list of imported goods was topped by mineral products (20.8 percent).

Lithuania

Slezevicius Hails Economic, Political Stability

LD1409215095 Moscow INTERFAX in English
2103 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VILNIUS, Sept 14 (INTERFAX) — Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius said Lithuania "has achieved economic and political stability and raised its authority."

He said in the Lithuanian parliament today that the country was currently receiving more foreign investments than earlier and was handling social problems more promptly.

Slezevicius said hyper-inflation had been stopped in Lithuania. He said inflation in the first eight months of this year totalled 20.4% (Lithuanian monthly inflation exceeded 20% during the two previous years).

Slezevicius said annual inflation would be below 30% this year. He said the GDP was expected to rise by 5%.

Slezevicius said the state budget deficit was low (about 1.9% of the GDP - IF) which he saw as further proof of the economic recovery.

According to official sources, Lithuania has recently increased its currency reserves (except gold reserves and IMF credits) by 9.5 times.

MP Charges Prime Minister With 'Corruption'

WS1509104595 Tallinn BNS in English
1210 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Sept 14, BNS — Lithuanian MP Romualdas Ozolas submitted to the presecutor general on Thursday [14 September] documentation, on which he bases his charges against the administration. Two weeks ago today, Ozolas accused prime minister Adolfas Slezevicius and his administration of corruption and squandering government resources.

Ozolas made a short press statement on Thursday in which he noted that by submitting concrete documentation he had now deprived the government of the possibility of exerting pressure on him. As reported, both the prime minister and the entire cabinet had dismissed his charges as being completely vague and his argumentation as irrational.

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"The prosecutor general has familiarized himself with the material to the extent that is possible at this point," Ozolas said. Justice officials can now decide whether to inform the press as to the nature of the documents and their assessment of them.

Ozolas handed over the unnamed documents to prosecutor Danute Masneriene who is heading the investigation. Overseeing the investigation is deputy presecutor general Arturas Paulauskas.

Demonstrators Demand Resignation of President, Parliament

WS1509104895 Tallinn BNS in English 1646 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, September 14, BNS — About 4000 mostly elderly demonstrators gathered Thursday [14 September] on Independence Square next to the parliament to demand the resignation of the president, administration and parliament, blaming them for carrying out "economic genocide" in the country.

The demonstrators directed especially harsh criticism at the bankers, whose salaries, according to the orators, were "several times larger than that of the president of the United States."

An activist of the Initiative for the Defense of Lithuanian Depositors urged "the robbed and impoverished" people of Lithuania to join together in a party. According to the speaker, this party could unite a million people, who know how to create "a new, pure and honorable Lithuania." Some 3,7 million people live in Lithuania.

The demonstration was organized by two groups with little influence — the Committee for the Defense of the Rights of Pensioners and Invalids, and the Lithuanian Union for Honesty and Culture. Demonstrators carried posters with slogans such as "Down with the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party — a party of thieves" and "Away with the LDLP mafia."

The demonstrators adopted two resolutions. One of them contained general economic demands — creation of new jobs, raising the minimal pension and salary to 500 litas, cutting government costs. It was also demanded that depositors be compensated for their losses and that criminal charges be initiated against the directors of bankrupt banks. It was proposed that depositors withdraw their savings from all banks.

The resolution also demands the resignations of the president, administration and parliament. If this did not occur, a public tribunal would be convened "to try" those in power.

In the second resolution, the law on pensions adopted by the parliament was declared invalid, and a revision of the law was demanded.

Slezevicius 'Optimistic' on Ties With Switzerland

LD1309201695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1733 GMT 13 Sep 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Trade and economic relations between Lithuania and Switzerland develop "very positively" and have a large growth potential, Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius said in his interview with the national radio upon his return from Switzerland Wednesday.

Slezevicius founded his optimistic assessment of the state of Swiss-Lithuanian relations by saying that Bern had granted Vilnius financial, humanitarian and material aid worth 10 million Swiss francs. The money was used to implement a number of projects in medicine, agriculture, environmental protection and topography.

According to Slezevicius, he agreed with Swiss Confederation President Kaspar Filliger and Economics Minister Jean-Pascal Delamuraz to develop a program for bilateral cooperation for the years to come.

Under the program, Bern will aid Lithuania to strengthen its banking system, make loans and "continue rendering other kinds of assistance."

Slezevicius said the conference on investments in Lithuania's economy held within the framework of his visit will contribute to bilateral cooperation.

Commenting on the first visit of Polish Prime Minister Jozef Oleksy to Lithuania, due to start Friday, Slezevicius described it as a "very important event." The Polish-Lithuanian talks will serve to better develop economic and political cooperation between the two neighboring states, he added.

Agriculture Ministry Sets Quota for Grain Imports

LD1309211395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2006 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VILNIUS, Sept 13 (INTERFAX) — The Lithuanian government today permitted the Agriculture Ministry to grant a quota for the duty-free import of 200,000 tonnes of grain, the Lithuanian government's press service told INTERFAX.

According to the results of this year's harvest, the government set the purchase quota at 403,000 tonnes of food grain. The Agriculture Ministry said that Lithuania also needed to purchase 350,000-400,000 tonnes of

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forage grain for producing fodder for cattle farms and other consumers.

The Agriculture Ministry said harvesting had already been completed but Lithuania had only 227,000 tonnes of food grain and only 25,000 tonnes of forage grain. The same source said agricultural enterprises and farmers were still selling grain to the state but Lithuania might face a shortage of 270,000 tonnes of grain until the next year's harvest.

Lithuania still has problems with grain purchases from national producers though the purchase prices had nearly reached the world level: 400-600 litae ($100-$150) for a ton of food grain and up to 400 litae ($100) for a ton of forage grain. The problems might be due to Lithuania's harvesting less grain than planned and a lower yield. Furthermore, producers get for their grain only 50%-70% of the due sum and the government's pledges that the remaining sum will be paid in the next few months

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